

**And the winner is ...**

Stripes staffers go head-to-head over Oscar picks  
Scene magazine



**Korean war veteran to receive Congressional Medal of Honor**

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**Falcons boys, girls in AA hoops finals** Back page

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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# Yongsan puts realty company off-limits

Officials won't elaborate on case; Julie's Realty claims no wrongdoing

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**Africa comes alive in South Korea**

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ERIK SLAVIN/Stars and Stripes

Second Infantry Division soldiers examine a lion reproduction and a massive collection of artwork Friday at the African Cultural Center in Pocheon, South Korea. The 2nd ID sent 65 soldiers to the center as part of its Black History Month celebration.

# 2 DAY

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

**"Japanese will judge all Americans and its military on the Americans that they know — even if the only one they know is the one they meet in the newspaper."**

—From a slide shown at Camp Zama, Japan, during a briefing of U.S. servicemembers and DOD civilians on the effect of crime on relations with Japan

See story on Page 4

## LIST

### TABLOID TRASH TALK

**THE ONE GOOD THING THAT CAME OUT OF THAT RELATIONSHIP:** "Vince (Vaughn) quits cigs after Jen (Aniston)" (Star)

— MCT

## COMING SOON



Scene on Sunday

Playing at Muscle Park

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# Watch out, New York City, here comes Anchorage

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — In a city where fashion sense has always played a distant second to staying warm, a cluster of boutiques in the budding "SoNo" district, south of Alaska's only Nordstrom department store, does a surprisingly brisk business in \$50 body lotions and \$180 designer jeans.

The homage to New York City's trendy SoHo district is just one of the many signs that this once-unruly oil-boom town at the edge of the American wilderness has been tamed.

## ALL GROWED UP

The Associated Press

In some respects, Anchorage could even be called sophisticated.

"Anchorage has really changed since I moved here 30 years ago," said Ellen Arvold, owner of the Out of the Closet luxury consignment shop, where leopard-print Prada ballet flats and Louis Vuitton handbags are big sellers. "People don't think there's a market for us, but there really is."

Strip malls have replaced strip clubs, big-box stores draw more customers than bars, and residential neighborhoods have supplanted the RV parks that once sprawled

across the state's biggest city, which now has a population of about 270,000. The city is the economic capital of a state more than twice the size of France.

"Anchorage has kind of grown up," said longtime resident Charles Wohlforth.

Racial and ethnic diversity also have risen as Alaska natives from poor rural villages and substantial numbers of Hispanics, Pacific islanders and Asians come to find work or join family members. In the city's public schools, nonwhite students reached an all-time high of 50 percent last fall, with the 48,000 students speaking 84 different languages.

The city is also reshaping its modest skyline with a \$100 million museum expansion, a \$93 million convention center and a parking garage with room for 830 vehicles. Development has its critics: Many Alaskans see Anchorage as increasingly out of sync with the rest of the state, prone to sprawl, traffic, crime and the other usual urban ills.



AL GRILLO/AP

Stores like this one are doing surprisingly well selling leopard-print Prada ballet flats and Louis Vuitton handbags.

"Rural Alaskans have a love-hate relationship with Anchorage," said Stephen Haycox, a history professor at the University of Alaska-Anchorage. "What they hate is that people in Anchorage don't have a good understanding of rural Alaska, which is a truly different world. But they love that Anchorage has neat things to buy and neat things to do."

## WHAT'S UP WITH THAT

Explaining customs from around the world

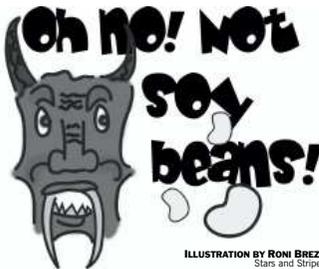


ILLUSTRATION BY RONI BREZA Stars and Stripes

**Q:** A couple of weeks ago, I saw soybeans littering the ground everywhere I went — on the sidewalks, and even the halls of my apartment building. Did everyone in Japan spill their groceries? What's up with that?

**A:** In the immortal words of John Belushi: "Food fight!"

Well, sort of. Your neighbors did throw soybeans — but not because anyone was imitating "Animal House."

Instead, they were celebrating Setsubun, a holiday that marks the end of winter and the beginning of spring. (Yes, it still feels like winter in most of Japan, but on the Japanese lunar calendar, spring officially started Feb. 4.)

Americans literally clean house when spring arrives, but the Japanese do a more figurative cleaning, by purging their homes of evil spirits or ogres, known as oni. That's where the soybeans come in, as part of a ritual known as mamemaki. Someone in the household — usually the man of the house or a male born in the animal sign of the current lunar year — throws the beans while chanting "oni wa soto; fuku wa uchi!" (get out; go

come in happiness). The beans are either thrown out the door or thrown at a family member wearing an oni mask.

Then it's customary for everyone to pick up and eat the beans — one for each year of their age — to bring good luck.

Setsubun is an excuse for a big party at Shinto shrines, which often bring in celebrities or sumo wrestlers to throw the beans, along with sweets and money, into the crowds.

Got questions about goings-on in the Pacific? E-mail Karen Willenbrecht at: willenbrecht@pstribes.osd.mil

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## SU/DO/KU

© Puzzles by Pappocorn

		5		6		7
	7		1	5		4
	9	1			4	2
3	4	2		1		8
	1			3		6
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1		3	5			6
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	5		6			8

Difficulty: Very Easy

Yesterday's solution

3	2	4	6	9	8	7	5	1
8	9	1	4	7	5	3	9	2
5	7	8	2	3	1	6	4	9
9	3	6	7	4	2	5	1	8
8	4	5	3	1	9	2	7	6
7	1	2	5	8	6	4	9	3
1	5	7	9	6	3	2	7	4
2	6	3	1	5	4	9	6	7
4	6	9	8	2	7	1	3	5

Fill in the boxes so that each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

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# Yongsan mum on why Realtor put off-limits

BY ASHLEY ROWLAND  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL — U.S. Army Garrison-Yongsan officials will not say why a prominent realty company is being investigated and was put off-limits earlier this month.

The president of Julie's Realty said her company has done nothing wrong, and she believes the off-limits designation will be overturned soon during the appeals process.

**“We are sure we’ve done our best for servicemembers and their families.”**

**Julie Back**

president of Julie's Realty

“There is a misunderstanding,” Julie Back said Friday at her office, located near Samgakji subway station and a short walk from Yongsan's Gate One. About a dozen thank-you letters and certificates of appreciation from U.S. Forces Korea are posted inside. “We both need to talk and have more understanding on each side.”

Both Yongsan and Criminal Investigation Division officials from the United States declined to say last week why Julie's Realty was placed off-limits on Feb. 15.

Back said she didn't want to hurt her chances at a successful appeal, but her company has done nothing wrong. “We are sure we've done our best for servicemembers and their families,” she said.

Yongsan spokesman David McNally said Julie's Realty was put off-limits based on preliminary results of an ongoing investigation into the company, but couldn't provide additional details.

He directed Stars and Stripes to CID for future comments on the investigation, but CID spokesman Chris Grey said the agency does not confirm the names of individuals or companies under investigation unless charges have been made.

Servicemembers and Department of Defense civilians are allowed to keep housing contracts made through Julie's Realty before Feb. 15, but cannot make new contracts. Julie's Realty has offices throughout South Korea, but is off-limits only at Yongsan.

E-mail Ashley Rowland at: rowlanda@pstripes.osd.mil



A collection of hand-crafted busts were among the thousands of pieces on display Friday at the African Cultural Center in Pocheon, South Korea. The 2nd ID sent 65 soldiers to the center as part of its Black History Month Celebration.

PHOTOS BY ERIC SLAVIN  
Stars and Stripes

## Africa comes alive in South Korean exhibit

BY ERIC SLAVIN  
Stars and Stripes

POCHEON, South Korea — Just off a back road in a small town outside of Uijeongbu, a group of buildings houses one of the most extensive collections of African art and craftwork in East Asia.

On Friday, about 65 soldiers with the 2nd Infantry Division got a look at the African Cultural Center in Pocheon.

It is the brainchild of a South Korean man who has traveled to 35 countries in Africa, collecting art from all corners of the continent. Tae Chunn-man, 56, grew up in rural Pocheon with little opportunity.

He has since more than made up for it. His business ventures have made him a multimillionaire. “The poverty of my childhood robbed me of having a chance at education in school,” Tae said. “That got me to dream about building up some kind of learning center.”

The city rejected Tae's first two plans for schools. Then he began traveling to Africa and fell in love with the continent. He began building his African Cultural Center in 1998. More than 20 billion won (\$21 million) later, the doors opened in 2006.

The thousands of display items are from all over Africa, with a large section of pieces from West Africa, followed by

Zimbabwe to the south. Many of the soldiers gazing at the artifacts were impressed at the center's scale.

“You expect to see this in Seoul, but not here,” Sgt. Gary Wilder said.

Staff Sgt. Lamar Atkinson said he visited an African cultural center while serving in Europe but never expected one here. “I'm amazed to see they have the number of African artifacts that they do,” Atkinson said. “As an African-American, it warms my heart to know that someone here cares this much about our culture.”

The visit was a natural fit during Black History Month, said Lt. Col. Wanda Chatman, 2nd ID's equal opportunity program manager. “It's interesting for the soldiers to see so much here,” Chatman said. “Many of us won't have the opportunity to go to Africa, ever.”

The center employs resident artists from Zimbabwe, who craft stone and other materials shipped from their country. The center also normally stages dancers from Zimbabwe, although they were not available Friday.

The center is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Admission is 5,000 won.

For information in Korea, call 031-543-3600.

Stars and Stripes reporter Hwang Hae-rym contributed to this report.

E-mail Eric Slavin at: slavine@pstripes.osd.mil



Spc. Morgan Hyde of the 2nd Infantry Division Band stares back at a collection of masks at the African Cultural Center.

## Students get close look at engineering

BY JIMMY NORRIS  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL — Seoul American High School students got a close-up look last week at the engineering field from people who work in the business every day.

### Clarification

A Feb. 23 headline should have stated that the 2nd Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 72nd Armor Regiment suffered three deaths since December. At least four soldiers have died within the division since December.

In recognition of National Engineers Week, members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spent Thursday with the 300 to 400 students who checked out the engineers' displays and presentations.

Displays included mapmaking and surveying, computer-aided design and the expansion at Camp Humphreys. Douglas Bliss, supervisory civil engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District, said he was hoping to generate interest in engineering among the students.

Bliss has coordinated the annual event for the past 10 years. “We're competing against other interests, and as a nation, hard sciences are hurting,” he said.

Engineers who participated said it was a good day. “It's a little tiring, because we're not used to speaking,” surveyor Ilmar Tarikas said. “We're not like teachers or anything. But it's well worth it.”

Students, who spent about five minutes at each of nine stations, seemed to enjoy the event. Some said they were interested in engineering as a career. Those who weren't found value in the event.

“I think it's worth the time, because it might inspire someone to become an engineer some day,” 11th-grader David Boeman said.

And while he's not planning on becoming an engineer, “it's better than class,” he said.

E-mail Jimmy Norris at: norrisj@pstripes.osd.mil



JIMMY NORRIS/Stars and Stripes

In Hon-chun talks to Seoul American High School students Thursday about environmental engineering during Engineer Day, an event conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District to generate interest in engineering among students.

# USFJ community pauses for ethics training

## Thousands take day to reflect on recent Okinawa incidents

BY JENNIFER SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

Thousands of U.S. military personnel and civilians at military bases in mainland Japan and on Okinawa paused Friday to reflect on repercussions one act can have on a long alliance between nations.

The words "personal behavior" and "good ambassadors" punctuated conversations from Yokosuka to Misawa in a mandatory Day of Reflection following a string of Okinawa-based incidents. Among them are the alleged Feb. 10 rape of a 14-year-old Okinawa girl by a Marine and an alleged Feb. 17 rape of a woman by a soldier.

Servicemembers spent part or all of the work day in meetings. They heard speeches from commanders, saw slide presentations and participated in discussions.

Some sessions were interactive. Marines at Camp Fuji near Tokyo, for example, were given hypothetical scenarios or problems to solve. What if a dinner in town with a liberty buddy turns into 12 friends at the same restaurant or bar, all drunk and all needing a ride home?

"It's easy to do a class or lecture, but we know that the world is not that simple," said Marine Col. Kenneth Lissner, Camp Fuji commander.

Base leaders throughout Japan emphasized the importance of professional conduct — on and off duty — stressing that another major incident off base could further escalate tensions.

"Part of our message is really quite positive," Col. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy, 35th Fighter Wing and Misawa Air Base, Japan, commander, said in an interview Thursday.

Most servicemembers at Misawa, he said, "are wonderful ambassadors of the United States and what we stand for."

"But we're only one event away from a strategic level impact to our alliance with the government of Japan, and so we just have to reemphasize that."

Japan's Defense Minister, Shigeru Ishiba, warned Friday that further crimes could harm relations between the United States and Japan.

U.S. military leaders have taken a number of steps to address concerns, from imposing travel restrictions on all status of forces agreement personnel on Okinawa and mainland Japan Marine bases to Friday's Japan-wide Day of Reflection.

People in mainland Japan communities said they hope Friday's training will help prevent crimes.

"As a result, [Sasebo] hopes it will lead to no more crimes that undermine the relationship of trust to be committed," said Setsuo Kuga, a city base affairs official.

U.S. Forces Japan commander Lt. Gen. Bruce Wright said Friday at Yokota Air Base, Japan, that he thought the training was going well.

"Ninety-nine percent of the force gets it," he said. "They reinforce why it's so important" to be good neighbors.

All Air Force personnel at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa were required to participate in commander's calls and unit-level training focused on sexual assault prevention, cultural awareness and the importance of being good ambassadors in Japan.



Marines at Camp Fuji, Japan, sit in discussion groups during a day of training on ethics, values and foreign cultures.

CHRISTOPHER B. STOLTZ/Stars and Stripes



BRUCE S. DUBEE/Stars and Stripes

Servicemembers and civilian employees at Camp Zama, Japan, listen to a presentation during Friday's Day of Reflection.

Status of forces personnel at Marine bases, including Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni near Hiroshima, completed similar training.

The 140 Marines at Camp Fuji, between lectures, role playing and discussing scenarios, heard from one Marine who did the right thing in an embarrassing situation.

The sergeant, an explosive ordnance technician, said he recently punched a door during a night of drinking at the military-run New Sanno Hotel in Tokyo, causing \$500 in damage. He confessed immediately to his master sergeant and told hotel staff he'd pay to fix the door.

"It comes up eventually," he said, so it's better to come clean rather than try to hide something.

The all-hands training at Sasebo Naval Base consisted of an hour of lectures, video and slides.

At Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, shore-duty sailors, officers and senior enlisted sailors were asked to "renew their efforts in providing strong guidance and counsel to junior sailors," said a Commander Naval Forces Japan statement.

On the fleet side, training emphasized "unwavering professionalism," said 7th Fleet spokeswoman Cmdr. Dawn Cutler.

"By and large, our sailors in 7th Fleet have made all of us very proud by their dedication, professionalism and good behavior," Vice Adm. Doug Crowder, commander of U.S. 7th Fleet, said in an e-mail. "However, it is essential for us to take the time to reflect upon and reinforce the importance of good conduct ashore here in Japan."

At Misawa, O'Shaughnessy said senior leaders are being placed at base gates Friday and Saturday nights to remind people as they're heading out into town "what they do that night could have a strategic-level impact."

O'Shaughnessy and Chief Master Sgt. Ricky Price, the wing's command chief, held four mandatory commander's calls Friday for all military personnel and Defense Department civilians assigned to the installation.

They were encouraged to keep up the good work, but also to be cognizant of their surroundings. They were told to diffuse the situation and look for ways to save the day if they see someone making a bad choice.

At the Army's Camp Zama near Tokyo, servicemembers and DOD civilians were required to attend one of three 75-minute training sessions. They spent the rest of the day with their commanders and first-line supervisors, reinforcing the issues discussed.

One briefing focused directly on the recent incidents on Okinawa and the effect any such crimes has on U.S.-Japan relations.

A slide read: "Japanese will judge all Americans and its military on the Americans that they know — even if the only one they know is the one they meet in the newspaper."

Stars and Stripes reporters Allison Batdorff, David Allen, Christopher S. Stoltz, Bryce Dubee, Teri Weaver, Travis Tritten and Hana Kusumoto contributed to this story.

E-mail Jennifer Svan at: svanj@pstris.osd.mil

## Troops react to restrictions

Stars and Stripes

An incident like the alleged rape of a 14-year-old by a U.S. Marine affects everybody, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jamel Pittman.

"I think something like that disgraces the uniform; we all feel degraded," the USS Kitty Hawk sailor said.

The incident, and other recent crimes by servicemembers in Japan, has led to restrictions limiting off-base activities of all status of forces personnel on Okinawa and Marine bases in Japan.

"They say 'one bad apple spoils the bunch,' but I don't think that everyone should be punished," Pittman said. "Restrictions like those are hard to live with — especially if you have a family."

While Pittman and others at bases in mainland Japan spoke about their thoughts on Friday's training and the restrictions, Stars and Stripes reporters were not allowed to conduct interviews on Okinawa bases concerning the Day of Reflection. Military officials turned down all requests to conduct man-on-the-street interviews on the bases and to attend the mandatory training held for active-duty personnel and Defense Department civilians.

SOFSA-status personnel on Okinawa contacted by telephone or in their off-base quarters were reluctant to be quoted by name concerning the restrictions and the events leading up to the general's order.

A civilian drug and alcohol counselor said he has conducted several talks with active-duty servicemembers in the past week.

"The lower-ranked enlisted guys are not happy about having to stay on the bases, but most of them realize it's the right thing to do," he said. "The Okinawans need to know the military is taking this very seriously. I think the people who are really going to suffer are the businesses outside the gates that rely on American customers."

A Marine major contacted by telephone also supported Marine Lt. Gen. Richard C. Zilmer's order to restrict all personnel on Okinawa sponsored by the military to the bases or their off-base homes.

SEE ORDERS ON PAGE 5

# Prosecutor: Accused Marine is 'cooperative'

BY DAVID ALLEN  
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA  
Stars and Stripes

NAHA, Okinawa — During an intense 10-day period of questioning, the Marine accused of raping a 14-year-old girl Feb. 10 has been cooperating with investigators, an Okinawa prosecutor said Thursday.

However, Deputy Chief Prosecutor Hirokazu Urata would not confirm local media reports that Staff Sgt. Tyrone Luther Hadnott, 38, has admitted to raping the girl in his parked van near a seaside park in Chatan.

"In a statement he gave to police, Hadnott initially denied the accusation," Urata said during an interview at the Naha Public Prosecutor's Office. "However, I cannot tell you what the current situation is. I cannot touch on the details of the ongoing investigation."

Okinawa police arrested Hadnott on Feb. 11 and recommended a charge of rape to the prosecutor's office two days later. Under Japanese law, the prosecutors have 20 days to seek an indictment. Friday marked the 10th day.

Hadnott, who lives in Kitanakagusuku and is separated from his Japanese wife, is being held in a cell at the Okinawa City police station and is questioned daily without a defense lawyer present.

According to police reports, Hadnott picked up the girl outside an ice cream parlor about 8:30 p.m. and offered her a ride on his motorcycle.

She accepted, and they rode to his home, where he attempted to kiss and fondle her, according to the police reports. She told police she cried and ran from his home, but he followed and calmed her down and convinced her it would be all right for him to drive her home in his van.

However, he forced himself on her at the seaside park, the girl told police.

The girl was picked up by police at about 11 p.m. after friends, who had been in cell phone contact with her, reported their concern



CINDY FISHER/Stars and Stripes

Approximately 100 people from labor unions associated with the Social Democratic Party of Japan and other anti-military groups protested the recent alleged rapes outside the Building 1 Gate of Camp Foster.

for her safety. She told one friend she was being held against her will, police said.

The girl was taken to a local hospital, where she was examined. Hadnott was arrested early the next day. Initially, he told police he had only kissed and "pressed up" against the girl.

Urata said there was no evidence of a struggle.

"The recommended charge was rape with no injuries involved," he said. "Of course, in the course of the investigation, the charge could be changed. However, no fact of injuries was initially acknowledged."

Urata declined to comment on media reports that the girl's cell

phone had been left on for part of the time she was with Hadnott and that a friend heard sounds of a struggle. He also would not elaborate on the girl's condition or whether police have received results of a DNA test using evidence collected from the girl and Hadnott's vehicle.

Urata said Marine officials were cooperating in the investigation. He described Hadnott, assigned to Camp Courtney, as "cooperative and answering questions."

During a meeting of the prefectural assembly Thursday, Okinawa Police Commissioner Hachiro Tokutsu said the girl was receiving mental health counseling.

E-mail David Allen and Chiyomi Sumida at: okbhureau@stripes.osd.mil

# Orders: Opinions on restrictions mixed

ORDERS, FROM PAGE 4

"It doesn't bother me much, because I'm an old man and don't go off base much," he said. "But, yeah, the younger Marines are upset. One of the great things about Okinawa are all of the recreational facilities — the boating and diving — that they won't be able to do."

"But the general did the right thing," he added. "It was certainly the political thing to do. Let's just hope that nobody does anything stupid this weekend and the restriction can be lifted soon."

Some hoped that the Day of Reflection would help keep additional restrictions at bay.

"I think it will show them more about how we should behave, so we don't end up having restrictions like the other bases do," said Seaman Michael Marquez of Sasebo Naval Base, Japan. "If we don't keep the problems down out in town we might end up having the same thing."

Marquez, who works in security, said base restrictions are a "last resort" measure and are not ideal. "I think it's like most restrictions — if you tell someone not to do something, they are going to try to find a way around it," he said.

Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, spouse LaTonya Williams said she recognized that the "Japanese aren't very happy with us right now," but since nothing has been proven yet, restrictions should reflect that.

But reflection — and restriction — are OK in certain instances and should be a matter of course for younger sailors around the holidays, she said. "It's hard when you have a lot of young people in the military," Williams said. "It would probably be better if they recruited more sailors with families to come to Japan instead of the young, single ones who are more likely to get in trouble."

It's not only the Japanese who are upset about safety in the wake of the incident. Yokosuka spouse

Edlin Bradley said she worries about her safety as well, given the feelings about the issue outside the gate. "It makes me a little scared to go out in town," Bradley said. "It doesn't make you feel very safe."

Airman 1st Class Joshua Aldrich, 22, of Misawa Air Base, Japan, said he thought the restrictions served another purpose.

"It sends a message to the Japanese government that the military does have things under control," he said.

Aldrich felt the Day of Reflection was necessary. When he read news reports about the alleged rape, "I was so angry," he said. "I don't know if everyone in there (training) knew what happened, but they need to."

Airman 1st Class Katherine Belk, 21, works nights at the hospital on Yokota Air Base, Japan, in the family care unit, and she often misses out on news reports.

So part of Friday's briefing at the movie theater on Yokota helped her hear firsthand about the accusations and reactions surrounding the alleged rape on Feb. 10. "We are in the spotlight," said Belk. "We need to act right. Any minute things could escalate."

Others echoed Belk's opinion. "Based on recent events, it's important to take a pause and reflect on why we are here in Japan," said Capt. Craig Daniel, the company commander for U.S. Army Japan Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Camp Zama. "We're visitors to Japan and should act accordingly."

An incident involving a servicemember on Okinawa can have a ripple effect as far north as sleepy Misawa, said Master Sgt. Robert Briggs, 41, a security forces member at Misawa.

"Everyone outside the gate, they don't see Marine, they see military," he said. "This incident affects everybody."

Stars and Stripes reporters David Allen, Allison Batdorf, Jennifer Swan, Eric Weaver, Travis Tritton and Bryce Dubeck contributed to this story.

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## Methods of survival

**Philippine Army Master Sgt. Jaime Agony gives a drink of water to a U.S. soldier after slicing bamboo, one method for gathering water. The demonstration was part of a survival course on Thursday at Fort Ramon Magsaysay, Philippines, during the Balikatan 2008 exercise.**

KEVIN M. KNALLAY  
Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps



# New panel will focus on rural health issues

## Committee will help vets get health care

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Veterans Affairs officials last week announced a new panel to get better health care access for veterans in rural areas, a continuing challenge despite years of focus by the department.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs James Peake unveiled plans for a new advisory committee on rural health issues, designed to spearhead new programs and update policies to get doctors and other medical personnel to small towns across the country.

The move comes just weeks after the department more than doubled the mileage allowance given to disabled veterans who must travel to visit a physician and coincides with the end of the first full year of the department's new office of rural health.

Kara Hawthorne, director of the office, said many of the access and availability issues the VA is dealing with aren't unique to veterans.

"Retaining any work force in rural areas

is difficult," she said. "You've got young people leaving small towns to go to college and then get jobs, and often it's difficult to entice them back. So we're not the only agency struggling with those same health care problems."

Hawthorne, whose office will work with the new committee, said she expects the advisers to look at ways to expand telemedicine offerings — consulting and advice over the phone or Internet, instead of a face-to-face clinic visit — as well as ways to improve transportation grants and programs for veterans in remote areas.

"We've already worked to develop relationships with private providers, to bring more services to veterans," she said. "But getting specialty care is still difficult in those areas."

VA officials said committee members, who have not yet been named by the secretary, will be from within the department and veterans service organizations, as well as representatives from health care agencies.

The committee is expected to begin work this summer.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shane@stripes.osd.mil

## Gates tours JPAC lab



BRADLEY C. CHURCH/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Dr. Thomas Sprague, a forensic anthropologist with the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, briefs Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates about the Central Identification Laboratory during a tour of JPAC at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, on Thursday.

# Fewer helos, same workload keep brigade busy

BY JAMES WARDEN

Stars and Stripes

TAJI, Iraq — The flight line was ghostly at 5 a.m. Tuesday, but the hangars just off the tarmac were bustling.

A half-dozen young mechanics with the 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment had hauled one out of the Black Hawks out of the dusty Iraq night and into a canvas clamshell hangar for an in-depth inspection that must be done every 200 flight hours. Two of the soldiers stood on top of the bird, trying to coax the first rotor blade back into place while others coached them from the ground.

They were on the back side of their shift but still plugging away at their work. They'd probably have another such inspection to do tomorrow. If not, then surely the day after. The days, after all, have been extremely busy.

"Tonight as soon as we get here, we were working, and we've been working ever since," said Sgt. Brett Knerr, a 27-year-old team chief from Allentown, Pa., who was working on the Black Hawk.

The mechanics' experiences are becoming a common theme among aviation units in Iraq. A drawdown after the troop "surge" has left fewer units to do about the same amount of work as before. There were four U.S. aviation brigades during the "surge." Officials kept the same number of brigade headquarters in country afterward.

But those were full brigades in name only. Combined, they had combat resources closer to three brigades, said Col. Tim Edens,

commander of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade.

That brigade — which has units from Katterbach, Illsheim and Wiesbaden, Germany — moved from Balad to take over aviation coverage for Baghdad two months ago. It had to leave three of its four Iraq-based battalions back in Balad with another aviation brigade.

It picked up a cavalry squadron in return, but that still left the 12th missing half its normal contingent of Apache helicopters. And this particular brigade has none of the workhorse CH-47 Chinooks that can carry about twice as many soldiers as a Black Hawk.

The threat of roadside bombs also keeps the demand for helicopters high, Edens said. Brigades have spread out across the same amount of space that larger divisions occupied in previous wars. Three-quarters of the brigade's helicopters fly every day.

"Everybody flies, and everybody flies a lot," said Maj. Tim Leonard, a 38-year-old operations officer for the 4th Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, a Fort Hood, Texas, unit attached to the 12th CAB.

That includes Edens himself. He suits up two to three days a week to fly the same Apache missions as other pilots.

Yet the biggest effect among pilots is probably on those recently out of flight school. First Lt. Jerry Shehan, a Black Hawk pilot from Hattiesburg, Miss., has logged 450 hours of flight time in the year's been flying. He transitioned from the two-hour missions that tired him in flight school to six or seven hours a day in the cockpit in Iraq.



JAMES WARDEN/Stars and Stripes

Passengers head for Black Hawks lined up Wednesday on the Taji, Iraq, airstrip. The helos are from 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment.

In all, the 12th CAB has already logged 4,000 hours in its two months in Taji, Edens said. A brigade's typical Apache program would be 4,000 hours in a year.

Yet Shehan shrugged off the extra work: "It's really not as bad as I expected it to be."

The burden is falling just as heavy, if not more so, on the ground crews. Spc. Johnathan Logan, 24, a 3-158 crew chief, said those in his position have often had to fly for six hours and then spend eight hours more working on the helicopters when they returned — especially when they first arrived in Taji.

"If we're not turning wrenches, we're flying," Logan said.

Before they deployed, a crew had probably done about two or three 120-hour inspections, said

Staff Sgt. Shane Hansen, a 30-year-old 3-158 soldier from Wichita, Kan. Now there's one at least every other night.

"By the time these guys leave here, they'll be where I was after three years in the Army," said Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Searcy, a Radcliff, Ky., native who has 13 years in the Army.

Despite the pace, the 12th CAB has had no serious mishaps during its deployment. Many aviation units have an accident within the first 90 days; crews in one of the brigade's units love to repeat their "skill not luck" motto.

"It's a tribute to the professionalism and the alertness of our crews," Edens said. "Just frankly, I think we've managed to do the fundamental things fundamentally well."

E-mail James Warden at: warden@stripes.osd.mil

## Lawyer says bribery sentence too 'lenient'

PYEONGTAEK, South Korea — The sentence imposed last month on a South Korean businessman accused of bribing two former AAFES officials is being contested on grounds that it's too lenient.

SSRT chief executive Jeong Gi-hwan was fined 10 million won (about \$10,597) and his company, SSRT, also known as Samsung Rental Corp. Ltd., was fined 20 million won (about \$21,194) in Suwon District Court on Jan. 30.

Jeong was accused of paying tens of thousands of dollars in bribes to former Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials Clifton W. Choy and H. Lee Holloway to secure their support for SSRT to hold a lucrative home Internet and phone contract on U.S. military installations in South Korea.

On Feb. 4, just days after Judge Kim Mi-ri passed sentence on Jeong, the prosecutor filed an appeal.

Jeong's lawyer in turn filed an appeal the next day, contesting the outcome of Jeong's trial.

The U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations has investigated the allegations against Choy and Holloway and passed its findings to federal prosecutors, who will weigh what further action, if any, may be warranted.

No date has been set in Suwon Court on the appeals in the Jeong case.

From staff reports

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# AAD benefits airmen on long deployments

BY LISA BURGESS  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Airmen deployed at least 300 days in support of operations in Iraq or Afghanistan are getting an edge over their colleagues when they return. Once they get home from their extended deployments, qualifying officers and enlisted airmen will have two choices: They can ask the Air Force to let them out of their current assignment early and give them a new posting or they can ask to stay at their current duty location for up to 24 additional months.

The new Air Force benefit, which is

called the advance assignment/deferment program, or AAD, is reserved for those who have served tours of duty of at least 300 consecutive days in locations authorized for hazardous duty incentive pay, according to officials at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

Airmen stationed in the United States must have a minimum of 36 months time-on-station before moving to their advance assignment, according to Jeff Gatcomb, chief of Officer Assignment Procedures at Randolph.

The usual Air Force time-on-station requirement is 48 months, Gatcomb said in

an e-mailed response Friday to Stars and Stripes.

Airmen eligible for AAD who are stationed overseas are handled differently, Gatcomb said.

Airmen living abroad have a fixed Date Eligible to Return from Overseas, or DEROS.

While they still "have the option of applying for an advance assignment," Gatcomb said, airmen stationed overseas "must move on their DEROS ... unless they elect to stay longer."

Gatcomb said personnel officials had no estimate of the number of airmen who will qualify for the benefit this year, and that

only a handful of airmen would have qualified in 2007.

However, AFPC statistics given to Stars in January indicated the Air Force is looking to fill about 1,650 yearlong billets downrange in 2008, compared to 1,606 for airmen deployed for 12 months in 2007.

Airmen interested in applying to the program must fill out a form letter and send it directly to their unit commanders.

Draft letters and full information on the program and its requirements are available at all military personnel flights, Gatcomb said.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: [burgessl@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:burgessl@stripes.osd.mil)

## Medal of Honor going to Native American GI

BY LEO SHANE III  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A Native American soldier who fought in World War II and the Korean War will be posthumously honored with the Medal of Honor next month, White House officials announced Friday.

Retired Master Sgt. Woodrow Keeble, a South Dakota native who died in 1984, will be recognized for actions in North Korea in October 1951. According to Army records, he ignored life-threatening wounds to take out three mountainside enemy pillboxes which had pinned down a U.S. platoon.

Keeble was initially awarded a Distinguished Service Cross, a Silver Star and a Purple Heart for those actions, but members of his state's congressional delegation have pushed for Medal of Honor recognition for him for years.

Army records say Keeble displayed "extraordinary heroism and completely selfless devotion

to duty" during his assault on enemy troops in Korea.

After seeing an advance platoon was pinned down by gunfire, Keeble rushed from his support unit to the front line. He then crawled ahead to take out three enemy positions with grenades, despite intense fire trained on him as he moved along the mountainside.

A formal ceremony awarding the top military honor will be held at the White House on March 3, officials said.

Keeble, a member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Ojate tribe, will be the first Dakota Sioux to receive the Medal of Honor. Twenty-four other Native Americans have received the award, including three for actions in Korea.

More than 3,500 servicemembers have received the Medal of Honor in its history, including two from the current Iraq conflict and one for actions in Afghanistan.

For a 1952 Stars and Stripes story recounting Keeble's actions, go to [stripes.com](http://stripes.com).  
E-mail Leo Shane at: [shanel@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:shanel@stripes.osd.mil)



Public domain

The White House announced Friday that Master Sgt. Woodrow Keeble, a South Dakota native who died in 1984, will be awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in North Korea in October 1951.

## Follow-on, home-basing applications going online

Stars and Stripes

The application process for home-basing and follow-on assignments is about to get easier, the Air Force says.

Starting in March, all active-duty members at ranks of lieutenant colonel and below who are slated to serve an unaccompanied tour of 15 months or less can submit Web-based applications from anywhere at any time, according to an Air Force news release.

"This change will help streamline the application process by eliminating paperwork and unnecessary trips to the military personnel element," Letty Inabnet, chief of assignment programs and procedures at the Air Force Personnel Center, was quoted saying in the release.

Airmen, she said, can fill out the application online, and if they are eligible the system will validate the application on the spot and send it to the Personnel Center for consideration.

"It helps reduce stress among our airmen who don't know where their next duty station will be after they serve the unaccompanied tour, and it provides stability for our Air Force families," Inabnet said.

Home-basings offer airmen assignments back to the same continental U.S. location or long-tour location in Alaska or Hawaii from where they left.

Follow-ons offer airmen assignment consideration to a preferred location in the continental U.S. or the overseas long-tour location of their choice, according to the release.

Airmen can choose up to eight locations in the continental U.S. and up to eight overseas choices.

Applications will be available March 3 at the Virtual Military Personnel Flight: <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>.

## Lawyers: British troops may have tortured Iraqis

The Associated Press

LONDON — Lawyers released evidence Friday that they say shows British soldiers may have tortured and executed up to 20 Iraqis after a battle in 2004 — the most serious allegations of abuse made against British forces in Iraq.

Attorneys for five Iraqi men detained by British troops after the battle say witness testimony, death certificates and video footage of mutilated bodies all support the claims.

They are demanding a public inquiry.

The British military strongly denies the accusations, and says the dead were insurgents killed in a gunbattle after ambushing British troops.

"We are of the view that our clients' allegations that the British army is responsible for the torture and death of up to 20 Iraqis

may well be true," said Martyn Day, a lawyer for the five, who says they were detained at the British army's Abu Najji base at the time of the alleged executions.

Day and another attorney, Phil Shiner, are representing the five men in a damages suit against the British military.

All say they were laborers who were innocently caught up in the violence.

The lawyers also have asked the High Court to order a public inquiry into the May 14, 2004, battle near the town of al Al Majar Al Kabir.

The Ministry of Defense says British soldiers fought Iraqi insur-

gents after a convoy was ambushed along the main road between Baghdad and the southern city of Basra.

The military said the close-quarter fighting — dubbed the battle of Danny Boy after the checkpoint where it took place — left three British troops wounded.

On Friday, the lawyers released a dossier of evidence including witness statements from the five men. All reported being beaten and blindfolded during detention at Abu Najji. They said they heard screams of agony, strangling sounds and gunshots that all five interpreted as evidence detainees were being executed.

*“I am totally convinced that I was hearing bullets being fired at close range into a number of Iraqis.”*

Hussein Fadel Abbass  
witness

One, Hussein Fadel Abbass, said he "heard the terrible sound of someone being choked or strangled" followed by gunshots.

"I am totally convinced that I was hearing bullets being fired at close range into a number of Iraqis," he said.

Day said the testimony pointed to about 15 people being killed, and evidence from death certificates raised the number to 20.

The British army says it picked up 20 bodies from the battlefield, along with nine survivors, and handed the corpses over to Iraqi authorities the next day.

Claims of abuse were first made shortly after the battle in 2004. A Royal Military Police investigation found no wrongdoing by British forces. Military police began a new inquiry into the five men's claims in December.

A British defense spokesman said it would be inappropriate to comment on the allegations while the investigation was under way.

French KFOR soldiers stop buses from Serbia after NATO peacekeeping forces temporarily closed the checkpoint on Friday at Jarinje, on the border between Serbia and Kosovo.



Srdjan Ljilic/AP

# Kosovo unrest continues

The Associated Press

KOSOVSKA MITROVICA, Kosovo — Serbs protesting Kosovo's independence for a fifth straight day Friday attacked U.N. police guarding a key bridge in northern Kosovo with stones, glass bottles and firecrackers.

The U.S. Embassy in the Serbian capital Belgrade announced it would evacuate family members of the staffers following an attack on the compound Thursday. Serb protesters set fire to the embassy, angered by U.S. recognition of Kosovo's declaration of independence over the weekend.

The State Department has ordered nonessential diplomats and the families of all American staff



Stars and Stripes

at the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade to leave Serbia, following a mob attack on the compound.

Serbia's prime minister appealed for calm. Serbian Presi-

dent Boris Tadic called an emergency meeting of the national security council and said the rioting that engulfed the capital overnight "must not even happen again." "I most sharply condemn the violence, looting and arson," Tadic said in a statement. "There is no excuse for the violence.

Nobody can justify what happened yesterday."

Kosovo's ethnic Albanian leaders declared independence from Serbia on Sunday. The province, which is 90 percent ethnic Albanian, has not been under Serbia's control since 1999, when NATO launched airstrikes to halt a Serbian crackdown on ethnic Albanian separatists. A U.N. mission has governed Kosovo since.

# Kosovo's history tied to a turbulent region

By KENT HARRIS  
Stars and Stripes

Kosovo's declaration of independence this week might eventually lead cartographers to update their maps of Europe. Not that that's anything new in the Balkans.

Serbia maintains that Kosovo is still a province that it should have control over, citing a series of historic events that date back hundreds of years. Serbia hasn't had control realistically, though, since U.N. Security Council resolution 1244 made Kosovo a protectorate in 1999. That agreement didn't give the province independence, though, as Serbia and its allies point out.

The U.N. decision came after a 78-day NATO bombing campaign of Yugoslavia that resulted in the withdrawal of Serbian forces from Kosovo. NATO initiated the campaign after a crackdown against the ethnic Albanian population by Serbian forces that some feared was akin to ethnic cleansing.

NATO ground forces entered Kosovo on June 12, 1999. Russian forces, backing their Serbian allies, also entered and set up their own peacekeeping operations. The Russians left in 2003.

The U.S. set up its main camp outside of a town in the southeast part of the province that the Serbs call

Urosevac and the ethnic Albanians call Ferizaj. Camp Bondsteel remains today as the largest U.S.-controlled compound in the Balkans.

NATO allies France (north), Italy (west), Germany (southwest) and the United Kingdom (center) also took responsibility for sections of the province. About 40,000 troops from dozens of countries — including some outside the NATO alliance — participated in peacekeeping duties early on, although those numbers have dropped considerably over the years.

Kosovo Force today consists of about 16,000 troops, including about 1,400 Americans.

Modern day Serbia and Kosovo were once part of Yugoslavia, a disparate mix of cultures, ethnicities and languages ruled by Josip Tito from World War II to his death in 1980. Following the fall of the Berlin Wall, the opening up of Eastern Europe and the election of Slobodan Milosevic as president of Serbia in 1989, several parts of Yugoslavia elected to break free of the republic, one by one.

The Dayton Peace Accords signed in December 1995 ended a bloody conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina — and began a decade-long U.S. and NATO peacekeeping effort there — and left Serbia and Montenegro alone in the former republic. Montenegro gained its independence in June 2006.

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# Marines at embassy in Belgrade hunker down, wait out chaos

By CHARLIE COON  
AND KENT HARRIS  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The torched section of the U.S. Embassy had been extinguished on Friday and calm prevailed in Belgrade, Serbia, but NATO forces and U.S. military planners continued to scrutinize the volatile region.

About 6,000 rioters in the Serbian capital broke away from a larger, peaceful demonstration on Thursday and set fire to the U.S. Embassy, forcing a group of Marines to hunker down inside and wait for the chaos.

One person died and more than 150 people were injured in the unrest in central Belgrade, police said. Nearly 200 people were arrested and 90 shops ransacked, officials said.

Serbs protesting Kosovo's independence for a fifth-straight day on Friday attacked U.N. police guarding a key bridge in Mitrovica, northern Kosovo, with stones, glass, bottles and firecrackers.

NATO troops in the former province, 200 miles south of Belgrade, were standing by if they needed to come to the aid of police, said French Navy Capt. Bertrand Bonneue, spokesman for the NATO-led Kosovo Force.

Bonneue said the situation remained tense in Mitrovica, the most volatile area. Thousands of residents from Serbia were reportedly set to join Friday with Kosovo Serb students who have been protesting daily in the city. "We are monitoring the situation very carefully," Bonneue said.

In Stuttgart, Germany, troops at the European Plans and Operations Center, part of the U.S. European Command headquarters, opened communications lines with their security counterparts in the Balkans, including in Belgrade.

The command has not been asked to provide additional troops or aircraft in response to the crisis, said Lt. Col. John Dorrian. The situation in Belgrade, he noted, was being handled by Serbian authorities while U.S. forces attached to the NATO mission were

far removed from the Belgrade unrest.

Dorrian said he did not know if the military readied aircraft in case an evacuation of embassy personnel was needed, adding "it wouldn't surprise me if that's on somebody's checklist."

"We did notify people who might be required to respond in event this escalated to a larger-scale emergency," Dorrian said. "But that's part of our normal operating procedure in case something significant happens in our area of responsibility."

The U.S. Embassy in Belgrade had closed at noon Thursday in anticipation of the demonstration, according to Master Sgt. John Finnegan of Marine Security Guard Detachment Belgrade.

The group of Marines and security personnel who remained passed the time until the situation escalated later in the day.

Finnegan said a group of rioters, which later grew to an estimated 6,000, had broken away from the peaceful, main group of demonstrators and converged outside the embassy.

"There were too many for the police to handle and a whole lot more were on the way," Finnegan said. "The police couldn't help us out and (rioters) had free access to the embassy."

"We made the call to pull everybody back. We got everybody to a safe area and hunkered down."

The Marines monitored the situation from their safe area inside the embassy by using computers and watching CNN, Finnegan said.

"It was a little tense," Finnegan said.

The Marines' priorities were to protect classified material and State Department personnel and facilities, Finnegan said.

"They did an outstanding job," he said. "There's a standard that we train to and they pulled it off. Nobody whined or complained. Everybody did exactly what they needed to do when they needed to do it."

The embassy was scheduled to remain closed through Monday.

At the sprawling Camp Bondsteel compound in Kosovo, part of the NATO-led Kosovo Forces mission, or KFOR, calm prevailed in the U.S.-led eastern sector, said Capt. Jeff Blowers in a telephone interview.

Blowers is commander of Company B, 34th Infantry Division from the Minnesota National Guard.

Blowers said that the battalion's Company A is stationed at Camp Nothing Hill, a multinational facility near the border with Serbia in the French-led sector.

Troops from that base were called to the border earlier this week after a post manned by police was attacked. Blowers said he couldn't talk about what kind of operations that company had performed, but said no U.S. forces were wounded.

The Associated Press contributed to this report

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## Charges dropped in GI's death

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The Army has dropped charges against Master Sgt. Terry Peggins for allegedly lying about when he last spoke with a soldier found dead after disappearing during a training exercise.

Fort Hood's senior mission commander said the evidence against Peggins would not support a court-martial but has not decided whether he will be disciplined in another way, post spokeswoman Col. Diane Battaglia said Thursday.

Peggins was charged last fall with making false official statements after the military obtained Sgt. Lawrence Sprader's cell phone records.

During the search, military

officials said Sprader last spoke to his commander by cell phone around 5 p.m. on June 8, saying he was lost but wanted to finish the exercise.

But his phone records show no calls coming in or going out after 3:08 p.m.

Sprader, 24, who had been in good health and served two tours in Iraq, was found dead on June 12.

An autopsy determined that he died from dehydration and hyperthermia.

Peggins is one of six leaders of Fort Hood's Noncommissioned Officers Academy disciplined in September. Peggins, who has served more than 20 years in the military, was removed for cause from his position at the academy, Galligan said.

# Dolphin's death heats up debate over use of sonar

Los Angeles Times

A rare dolphin died on the beach of the Navy's San Nicolas Island, about 60 miles west of Los Angeles, in late January during the final days of Navy exercises using a type of sonar that has been linked to fatal injuries in whales and dolphins.

A dissection of the right whale dolphin's head revealed blood and other fluid in the ears and ear canals. The same symptoms were found in deep-diving whales that washed ashore in the Canary Islands in 2002 and the Bahamas in 2000 after military sonar exercises.

Unlike the mass strandings of whales on the Canary Islands in 2002 and the Bahamas in 2000, only one dolphin washed ashore Jan. 29 on San Nicolas.

That occurred just as the Navy's THIRD Fleet in San Diego was wrapping up sonar training that has become the focus of a federal court fight and elicited an effort by President Bush to intervene.

Teri Rowles, lead veterinarian with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, cautioned against jumping to conclusions until a panel of expert radiologists could review magnetic resonance images of the dolphin's head and a federal pathologist could scrutinize tissues for diseases as well as for air and fat bubbles associated with sonar-related injuries.

"At this point, we cannot rule in or rule out sonar or any other kind of intense noise," said Rowles, head of the nation's Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program. "This one is perplexing at this point."

## Ex-chief prosecutor at Gitmo to testify for defense

The Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The former chief military prosecutor at Guantanamo Bay said Thursday he would be a defense witness for the driver of Osama bin Laden.

Air Force Col. Morris Davis, who resigned in October over alleged political interference in the

U.S. military tribunals, said he will appear at a hearing for Salim Ahmed Hamdan. "I'm more than happy to testify," Davis said in a telephone interview from Washington. He called it "an opportunity to tell the truth."

Hamdan's defense team plans to argue that alleged political interference cited by Davis violates the Military Commissions Act,

said Hamdan's military lawyer, Navy Lt. Brian Mizer.

Davis alleges, among other things, that Pentagon general counsel William Haynes said in August 2005 that any acquittals of terrorism suspects at Guantanamo would make the United States look bad, calling into question the fairness of the proceedings.

"He said 'We can't have acquit-

ments, we've got to have convictions,'" Davis recalled.

The statement by Haynes occurred after he compared the Guantanamo tribunals to Nuremberg, said Davis, who added that he pointed out some of those tried at the end of World War II were acquitted, giving them more credibility in the eyes of the world.

At the time, Davis says, he

shrugged off the comments. But he came to view them as alarming after he was placed in a chain of command under Haynes, and the prosecutor began to sense political pressure on his work.

Pentagon spokesman Navy Cmdr. Jeffrey Gordon denied that Haynes made such a comment. Gordon also denied Davis' allegations of political interference

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## Tour Schedule

Tue, 26 Feb 08, Camp Bonifas, Sanctuary Club, 7 p.m.

Wed, 27 Feb 08, Kunsan AB, Loring Club, 8 p.m.

Thu, 28 Feb 08, Chinhae NB, Duffy's, 7 p.m.

Fri, 29 Feb 08, Taegu AB, Jake's Place, 7 p.m.

Sat, 1 Mar 08, Osan AB, Mustang Club, 10 p.m.

Sun, 2 Mar 08, Camp Red Cloud, Mitchell's, 7 p.m.

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Osan AB: DSN 784-9116

Korea Region MWR: DSN 723-3749



## Turkish troops enter Iraq to pursue rebels

BY CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA  
The Associated Press

CIZRE, Turkey — Turkish troops launched a ground incursion across the border into Iraq in pursuit of separatist Kurdish rebels, the military said Friday — a move that dramatically escalates Turkey's conflict with the militants.

It was the first confirmed Turkish military ground operation in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003, and raised concerns of a wider conflict with the U.S.-backed Iraqi Kurds despite Turkish assurances that its only target was the PKK rebel group.

The ground operation started after Turkish warplanes and artillery bombed suspected rebel targets on Thursday, the military said on its Web site. The incursion was backed by the Air Force, the statement said.

A military officer of the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq said on condition of anonymity that several hundred Turkish troops had crossed the border. Turkish media reports cited larger numbers. Turkey gave the United States and Iraqi authorities advance notice of its incursion, White House spokesman Scott Stanzel said.

"We were notified and we urged the Turkish government to limit their operations to precise targeting of the PKK — to limit the scope and duration of their operations — and we urged them to work, directly, with Iraqis, including Kurdish government officials, on how best to address the threat," Stanzel told reporters.

# Mahdi Army cease-fire extended

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO  
Stars and Stripes

Radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr on Friday extended a cease-fire order that has largely held his Mahdi Army militia in check and contributed to an improved security situation in Iraq.

The announcement, delivered by Shiite clerics during Friday prayer services at dozens of mosques across the country, extended the truce by another six months, al-Sadr aides said.

American military commanders in Baghdad quickly commended the order as "an important commitment that can broadly contribute to further improvements in security for all Iraqi citizens."

"Those who continue to honor al-Sayyid Muqtada al-Sadr's pledge will be treated with respect and restraint," read a statement issued by Multi-National Force-Iraq, using an honorific with al-Sadr's name reserved for descendants of the prophet Muhammad.

But the statement also included a warning for rogue factions of the Mahdi Army, which the military refers to commonly as "Special Groups."

"Those who dishonor the Sadr pledge are regrettably tarnishing both the name and the honor of the movement. Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces will continue to work closely with the Iraqi people to protect them from these criminals who violate the law and dishonor the commitment made by al-Sayyid Muqtada."

The wording of the statements and the use of an honorific for al-Sadr mark a turnaround from

his status a year ago. Sadr was routinely described by military officials as one of the top security threats in Iraq because of his followers' role in fomenting sectarian violence. His group also fought openly with U.S. troops in two major uprisings.

But al-Sadr's cease-fire pledge has been credited — along with the "surge" of U.S. troops in Iraq and the aligning of several Sunni groups fighting al-Qaida in Iraq — with bringing violence down more than 60 percent in the country.

"This extension of his August 2007 pledge of honor to halt attacks is an important commitment that can broadly contribute to further improvements in security for all Iraqi citizens," the MNF-Iraq statement read. "It will also foster a better opportunity for national reconciliation and allow the Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces to focus more intensively on al-Qaeda terrorists."

The original cease-fire was issued on Aug. 29, after deadly clashes between al-Sadr's followers and the rival Badr militia of the Supreme Iraqi Islamic Council.

In response to the extension, the office of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki — whom al-Sadr once supported but has turned away from — issued a statement according to The Associated Press saying the "Al-Sadr bloc is an essential cornerstone in the political process and in the new Iraq."

Friday's extension drew quick comment from throughout the U.S. military in Iraq.

"We welcome the news of Sayy-



ALAA AL-MARIJANI/AP

Iraqis hold Muqtada al-Sadr's portrait in the city of Kufa, Iraq, after al-Sadr announced a cease-fire would continue another six months.

id Muqtada al-Sadr's announcement to extend the freeze," Brig. Gen. Mike Milano, deputy commander of Multi-National Division-Baghdad and the 4th Infantry Division, said. "We believe it will have a continued calming effect on the security situation here in Iraq's capital city and will greatly benefit the people of Baghdad and the Government's reconciliation initiative."

Sgt. Christopher Hatcher, 22, of Melbourne, Fla., said the truce extension shows that "there's a lot working" in Iraq now. The original freeze helped Iraq, and this should do the same, said Hatcher, in 1st Battalion with Company D, Khadamiyah, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division.

"I think it's probably the best thing he could do for these people," Hatcher said.

Warrant Officer 1 Favian McGraw, with the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade in Taji, said troops should continue to be wary despite al-Sadr's announcement. Factions within the cleric's group already disagreed with the freeze and may use the extension as an excuse to break off and continue the fight, the 31-year-old said.

"I think you'll see some attacks of desperation in reprisal for his decision," he said.

McGraw was not surprised by the decision to extend the freeze. Al-Sadr wants to be an ayatollah, which takes time and a sizable support base.

"I think this is part of his long-term initiative," McGraw said. "I don't think by stopping the freeze he's going to meet any of his long-term objectives."

For soldiers heading out on patrols, though, McGraw's advice is

simple: "Remain extremely vigilant. This extension of this freeze does not in any way diminish the threat. In fact, in the short term, it may increase the threat."

Maj. Bob Risdon, 37, of Chicago, the executive officer of the 1st Battalion, 21st Stryker Infantry Regiment in Baghdad, expressed concerns that even with the cease-fire, "Special Groups" and criminals would move toward more violence.

His biggest concern was that if Shiite elements stepped up attacks on "Sons of Iraq" checkpoints, the largely-Sunni groups would respond in kind.

In the northern city of Mosul, there are relatively few Shiites, so the announcement is expected to have little effect.

The population of the city of nearly 2 million is more than 60 percent Sunni Muslim, but there are significant communities of Kurds, Assyrian Christians, Turkomen and other minorities. The mix has given al-Qaida and Sunni insurgents a ready base of support among Sunnis who see the militants as a bulwark against encroachments by the other groups, especially Kurds.

Because of the mixed population in Mosul, U.S. officers with 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment say they have no plans to form any of the tribal groups, now called "Sons of Iraq," fearing that creation of the groups could spark sectarian tensions.

"We think they would be more hurtful than helpful," said Maj. Bob Molinari, the regimental operations officer.

Stars and Stripes reporters Drew Brown, Jani Warden and Michael Giskis contributed to this report.

E-mail Joseph Giordono at: giordonoj@stripes.osd.mil



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# At least 12 dead in Iraq

BY HAMID AHMED  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Bombs, including one hidden under a horse-drawn cart, struck targets in Baghdad and targets to the north and west of the capital on Friday, killing at least 12 people, police said.

The deadliest blast occurred in the Anbar city of Amiriyah, 25 miles west of Baghdad, when a suicide attacker targeted worshippers leaving a Sunni mosque following weekly Islamic prayer services, killing at least four people and wounding four, including the local police chief, officials said. Anbar province is a former al-Qaida in Iraq stronghold that has seen a recent decline in violence after Sunni tribal leaders turned against the terror network, but sporadic attacks continue.

The bomb hidden under a horse-drawn cart exploded in downtown Baghdad, killing three civilians, including a street sweeper, and wounding six people, police said.

Shortly after the blast, Iraqi authorities announced a ban on carts on the streets of Baghdad.

"These methods began to be used by terrorists and criminal gangs" said Husham al-Rikabi, a

deputy spokesman for the Iraqi military in Baghdad.

Hours later, an explosive-laden car blew up in a parking lot in the predominantly Shiite area of Karradah in central Baghdad, killing a man and two teenage boys and wounding seven police said.

Nine cars also were destroyed. A booby-trapped car being towed by police also blew up in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, killing two policemen and

wounding four others, police said.

Police said they were removing the car after it was found parked near a market pockmarked with bullet holes and with blood-stained seats. Nobody claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military said Iraqi soldiers discovered 15 bodies near the town of Kazim al-Isrhaal, some 20 miles north-east of Baqouba.



HADI MIZBAN/AP

Abbas Hussein sits in the ruins of his shop in Baghdad on Friday.



## Gates hopes to continue U.S. troop cuts in Iraq

The Associated Press

ABOARD A MILITARY AIRCRAFT — Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Friday he hopes to be able to continue to reduce the number of U.S. troops in Iraq over the next 10 months, even as he and his military commanders lean toward a pause in troop cuts in July.

Gates, who is traveling to Australia for defense and diplomatic meetings, told reporters traveling with him that he thinks a "brief pause" to evaluate the security situation in Iraq "is probably necessary in order to be able to assess the pacing of any subsequent drawdowns."

While Gates still would not say how long a brief interruption in troop cuts might be, his comments signaled that reductions could begin again before the end of the year.

"I think my hope still is that we will be able to further draw down our troops in Iraq over the course of the next 10 to 12 months," he said.

The defense secretary's comments came as he prepared for talks with new Australian government leaders who campaigned on a vow to pull roughly 550 of their combat troops out of Iraq.

Gates offered no criticism of the Australians for their decision. Instead, he said that while the coalition values the role the Australians have played, he realizes that about half of their army is deployed, which puts stress on the military.

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# CBS seeks to quash subpoena for Marine interview

BY CHELSEA J. CARTER

The Associated Press

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Military prosecutors say unaired footage of a CBS interview given by a Marine squad leader contains admissions of crimes in an attack that killed 24 Iraqi civilians.

Staff Sgt. Frank D. Wuterich "apparently admits in an unaired segment that he did in fact order his men to 'shoot first and ask questions later,'" Capt. Nicholas Gannon said in response to a motion filed by CBS

sources to quash a subpoena seeking the footage.

CBS is set to ask a military judge Friday to throw out the subpoena during a pretrial hearing for Wuterich, who faces voluntary manslaughter and other charges in the Nov. 19, 2005, deaths in Haditha, Iraq.

In its motion, CBS says the subpoena would be "unreasonable and oppressive," and turn a news organization into an investigative arm of the government.

"This fishing expedition is particularly inappropriate given the numerous other

sources of information concerning the events underlying this court-martial," according to the motion obtained by The Associated Press.

The subpoena stems from an interview aired on March 15, 2007, report on "60 Minutes" entitled "The Killings at Haditha."

In the interview, Wuterich recounted to CBS News correspondent Scott Pelley his recollection of the events that led to the deaths. The deaths occurred after a roadside bomb hit a Marine convoy, killing the driver of a Humvee and wounding two other Marines.

Wuterich and a squad member, Sgt. Sanick Dela Cruz, allegedly shot five men by a car at the scene. Wuterich then ordered his squad into several houses, where they cleared rooms with grenades and gunfire, killing unarmed civilians in the process.

The manslaughter charge against Wuterich, 27, of Meriden, Conn., includes specifications of a personal role in at least nine killings, naming seven victims plus one or more unknown people, and the allegation that he ordered a lance corporal to kill someone.

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## Canada to end mission in Afghanistan in 2011

TORONTO — Canada's prime minister unveiled a proposal on Thursday to withdraw his country's forces from volatile southern Afghanistan in 2011, a move that largely accedes to opposition demands amid threats of an early election.

Stephen Harper's minority Conservative government is trying to extend past February 2009 the military operation in Kandahar province, a region that was once the Taliban's stronghold.

Harper's government has been under growing pressure to withdraw Canada's troops as the death toll increases, now at 78 soldiers and a diplomat.

Thursday's proposal resulted from a compromise with opposition Liberals, who were against extending the mission and had threatened to force a vote aimed at toppling the government.

## Three senators on helo have emergency landing

WASHINGTON — A helicopter carrying three senior U.S. senators made an emergency landing Thursday in the mountains of Afghanistan because of a snowstorm.

Sens. John Kerry, Joseph Biden and Chuck Hagel were aboard one of two helicopters that made emergency landings, Kerry said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press from Turkey. Staffers were on the second chopper, Kerry said.

One was injured, Kerry said. The senators and their delegation returned to Bagram Air Base in a motor convoy, and left for Turkey. They had been visiting some forward firebases in Afghanistan before the emergency landing.

## Suicide bomber targets Afghan army patrol

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide bomber in a car blew himself up next to an Afghan army patrol in eastern Afghanistan on Friday, an official said. No soldiers were hurt in the blast.

The bomber died in the attack in Khost province, said police Gen. Mohammad Ayub.

The soldiers were driving from their base toward the provincial capital when the bomber tried to ram their convoy, Ayub said.

Taliban militants are increasingly using powerful bombs in their suicide and roadside attacks against Afghan and foreign troops in the country. Most of the victims of such attacks this year have been civilians.

From The Associated Press

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## IN THE WORLD

## Iran: Report is vindication of nuke program

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's top nuclear negotiator welcomed a report released by the U.N. nuclear watchdog Friday on Tehran's atomic program, saying it provided more evidence vindicating the country.

The report by the International Atomic Energy Agency said many past issues had been fully resolved or were no longer an issue at this stage. But the group said Iran had dismissed as false information that says its missile and explosives experiments are part of a nuclear weapons program and continued to enrich uranium in defiance of U.N. Security Council demands.

"This report is more evidence proving Iran's truthfulness on the nuclear issue," Iranian negotiator Saeed Jalili told a press conference Friday. "This victory is the result of resistance by the Iranian nation in insisting on its rights."

The U.N. Security Council has passed two sets of sanctions against Iran for its refusal to suspend uranium enrichment,

*"This report is more evidence proving Iran's truthfulness on the nuclear issue. This victory is the result of resistance by the Iranian nation in insisting on its rights."*

Saeed Jalili

Iranian negotiator

which can generate both nuclear fuel and fissile material for weapons.

Friday's report set the stage for a third set of sanctions, although permanent council members Russia and China will likely oppose tough measures.

Jalili said Friday that the U.N. Security Council had no basis for imposing additional sanctions on Iran and called on the U.S. to stop accusing Iran of seeking nuclear weapons.

"This report showed that the accusations against Iran were based on a false foundation," said Jalili. "Continuation of the past trend (of sanctions against Iran) will be a scandal for those who want to insist on a blatant mistake."

The U.S.-led push for harsher sanctions against Iran became more difficult at the end of last year when American intelligence agencies issued a report saying Tehran had suspended its nuclear weapons program in 2003 and had not restarted it. However, U.S. officials have continued to insist Iran's nuclear activities are a threat because they could allow Tehran to restart weapons development in the future.

The 11-page IAEA report released Friday gave Iran a relative clean bill of health on explaining the origin of traces of enriched uranium in a military facility; experiments with polonium, which can also be used in a weapons program, and purchases on the nuclear black market.

In such cases, "the agency has been able to conclude that answers provided by Iran ... are (either) consistent with its findings (or) ... not inconsistent with its findings," said the report, in carefully worded language that would allow it to renew its probe into the issues.

But it said Tehran had rejected as irrelevant material forwarded by the agency that purportedly shows it working on tests of missile trajectories, high explosives testing, and research on a missile re-entry vehicle — activities that would most likely be part of weapons development. Questions also remained on how and why Iran came to possess diagrams showing how to mold uranium metal into warhead shape.

Such "weaponization" themes remain "the one major remaining (unsolved) issue relevant to the nature of Iran's nuclear programme," said the report. It noted that among the evidence reviewed — and rejected as irrelevant by Tehran — were diagrams showing a missile re-entry vehicle that would be "quite likely ... able to accommodate a nuclear device."

## Roadside bomb kills 12 in Pakistan; opposition mulls PM candidates

BY ZARAR KHAN

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — A roadside bomb tore through a pickup truck packed with wedding guests in the volatile northwest Friday, killing 12 people in the first major attack since Monday's election.

Leaders of Pakistan's main opposition party, meanwhile, were behind closed doors mulling candidates for prime minister after a sweeping election win that threatens U.S.-backed President Pervez Musharraf.

Although it could take days to select a new premier, the top contenders were the Pakistan People's Party's vice president, Makhdoom Amin Fahim, and Shah Mehmood Qureshi, its chief representative in Punjab, the most populous province, said Nabeel Gabol, a senior PPP member.

The talks came a day after the party of assassinated opposition leader Benazir Bhutto announced plans to form a coalition with the runner-up in Monday's parliamentary polls, ex-premier Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-N.

The broad agreement between the two secular groups, which fought bitterly for a decade before Musharraf seized power in a 1999 coup, marked an important step toward setting up a civilian administration to govern the Islamic nation after years of military rule.

"The future of democracy is within our grasp," Bhutto's widow Asif Ali Zardari said at a joint news conference with Sharif. "We will strengthen the parliament, we will strengthen democracy, we will work together for Pakistan. We will make a stronger Pakistan."

Sharif's party said Friday the decision about the prime minister would be left to the election winner. "We think they will choose their best person for the job," said PML-N spokesman Sadiq ul-Farooq said.

The two opposition parties together won 155 of the 268 parliamentary seats contested in Monday's vote — short of the two-thirds majority needed to impeach Musharraf. The pro-Musharraf Pakistan Muslim League-Q

won 40, with the rest going to smaller parties and independent candidates.

The results exposed Musharraf's own lack of public support amid a rise in Islamic militancy that has left hundreds dead in recent months — including Bhutto — and anger over his recent crackdown on the independent judiciary. It also raised questions about his survival as head of state. He recently resigned from the army, considerably diminishing his power.

The United States, which made Musharraf a key ally in its war on terror after Sept. 11, 2001, said its relationship with the Muslim nation of 160 million would continue as before.

"We look forward to working with whoever emerges as prime minister. We look forward to working with President Musharraf in his new role," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard A. Boucher told reporters in Brussels on Thursday.

Asked whether the U.S. would ask Musharraf to resign if the opposition demanded that, Boucher said, "Let us not speculate at this point."

ences on whether North Korea has fully declared its nuclear programs under an October accord reached with the United States, China, Russia, Japan and South Korea.

## Kenya talks at crucial stage

NAIROBI, Kenya — A top African diplomat said Friday that talks to end Kenya's deadly postelection crisis have reached a crucial stage as the two sides broke off negotiations for the weekend without reaching a deal on sharing power.

Despite weeks of international pressure, President Mwai Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga have not yet agreed on

how to resolve a crisis stemming from the Dec. 27 election, which local and foreign observers say was rigged.

"We are satisfied with the progress made on the Kenya national dialogue and reconciliation," said Jean Ping, chairman of the African Union Commission, the U.S.'s executive body.

## Turkey OKs scarf measure

ANKARA, Turkey — President Abdullah Gul on Friday approved constitutional amendments that would allow women to wear Islamic head scarves at universities. Parliament passed the measure earlier

this month. But the legislation could still face another hurdle. The secular opposition has vowed a legal challenge to the amendments on grounds that they violate Turkey's secular constitution.

## Castro relieved to step down

HAVANA — Fidel Castro said Friday that he's relieved to be stepping down as Cuba's president, complaining that the process of selecting Cuba's next government "had left me exhausted."

"The night before, I slept better than ever," Castro wrote in a newspaper column.

From The Associated Press

## Venezuela plane crash kills all aboard



LEO LEON/AP

Relatives of passengers on board a commercial plane that crashed Thursday near Merida, Venezuela, grieve as they wait for news at the desk of Venezuela's Santa Barbara airlines at the airport in Merida on Friday. All 46 people aboard the plane died when it slammed into an Andean mountain, rescue crews confirmed Friday.

## Media visit N. Korea reactor

YONGBYON, North Korea — North Korea opened its main nuclear reactor to foreign media for the first time Friday in a bid to show that it is complying with a disarmament accord to disable the facility.

Broadcaster APTN was permitted to visit the reactor facility in Yongbyon, the heart of North Korea's nuclear weapons program. Its footage showed North Korean workers in white head-to-toe protective suits removing spent nuclear fuel from the facility's 5 megawatt reactor.

The visit came as six-nation negotiations on the nuclear dispute are stalled over differ-

**Michael Stude, a tourist from Perth, Australia, left, throws a rope during a ninja class for foreign tourists in Tokyo.**



PHOTOS BY JUNI KUROKAWA/AP

**Atsushi Kobayashi, a staff member at Bujinkan Training Hall, watches during a class that allows tourists to experience life as a Ninja in Tokyo on Wednesday.**

# Tourists seek to experience life as ninja

BY YURI KAGEYAMA  
The Associated Press

**TOKYO** — His head wrapped in cloth and wearing black head-to-toe, Michael Stude throws darts, turns summersaults and twirls lassos in a ninja class for foreign tourists in Japan.

"It didn't seem quite like the normal touristy showy sort of thing," the 40-year-old information-technology engineer from Perth, Australia, said Wednesday, a little breathless after pushing down a mock opponent. Foreign visitors who always flocked to old tourist spots in Japan like Kyoto, the Sapporo Snow Festival, hot-springs baths and Mount Fuji.

But these days, they're also checking out new offbeat ways to experience Japan like ninja classes, a geeky pop culture in Tokyo's Akihabara gadget district and animation museums displaying manga, or Japanese style cartoons.

And they're coming in record numbers — many of them from elsewhere in Asia. Last year, an all-time high 8.34 million foreign tourists visited Japan last year, up 14 percent from the previous year.

Japan — traditionally considered an expensive destination — has become cheaper for many because of the recent surges in the euro, Australian dollar and other Asian currencies against the yen, says Junskie Imai,

a government bureaucrat in charge of promoting the \$232 billion a year tourism industry. The government has set a goal of raising that to \$278 billion by 2010, Imai said.

"Chinese people easily buy three times what average Japanese buy in one visit," says Hiroyuki Nemoto, director of Invest Japan Business Support Centers, a government-backed organization.

Department stores are hoping to make up for dropping consumer spending among Japanese with the stronger buying power of China, South Korea and other Asian nations. The appeal of Japan as a travel destination is mostly its novelty, as Koreans have already traveled a fair

amount to the U.S., Europe and China, said Park Yongman, counselor at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Tokyo. "These days, Japan is seen as the best place to travel," he said, adding that the changing image of Japan has done wonders.

The visitors who paid \$139 for the ninja class said they had seen ninja in samurai movies, manga and the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," and wanted to try it out. Ninja master Masayuki Waki, 49, who was teaching newcomers the art of fleeing grabs and choke holds, acknowledged foreigners were more interested in spirituality and other things Japanese than are most Japanese.

## Japanese astronaut to test boxer shorts in space

**TOKYO** — A Japanese astronaut will put on special boxer shorts and gym wear during his upcoming mission to see if the newly developed high-tech clothing can boost comfort levels on the International Space Station, Japan's space agency said Friday.

The seamless, stretchable boxer shorts, gym wear and socks are made of lightweight fabric woven by anti-bacterial and antistatic fibers to give "high levels of deodorant, antiseptic and antistatic effect" in space, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency said.

Astronaut Takao Doi will try them on inside the Japanese space lab "Kibo," where he cannot take a bath or shower during the two-week mission.

## Rambo takes hit in Myanmar magazine

**YANGON, Myanmar** — Sylvester Stallone's Rambo character looks like a fat lunatic in his new movie, a Myanmar magazine said this week, bucking local public opinion that has glorified him for his exploits fighting the ruling junta's unpopular soldiers.

The new "Rambo" film shows the weary hero on a mission to rescue a group of Christian missionaries taken captive by brutal government troops in the jungles of Myanmar.

Stallone's fictional exploits have made him a folk hero among the government's real-life foes here, who circulate bootleg DVDs of the film, even though state censors have ordered video shops not to carry the movie because it denigrates the army's image.

"We need many Rambo's in Myanmar," said a 75-year-old retired civil servant after watching it. Like other viewers, he asked not to be named for fear of trouble from authorities.

## China, S. Korea emerging as leading inventors

**GENEVA** — China and South Korea are climbing up the ranks of the world's leading inventors, according to figures released by the U.N. patent agency Thursday.

Of the 156,000 international patents filed through the World Intellectual Property Organization last year, some 7,000 originated in South Korea and almost 5,500 came from China.

The numbers put the two countries far behind the United States, which maintained its top position for international patents with about 52,000 registrations.

But South Korea overtook France to come fourth behind Germany (27,731) and Japan (18,134) on the patent ladder. China (8,456) saw its filings jump by almost 40 percent in one year and came seventh — ahead of the Netherlands (4,186) and within striking distance of Britain (5,553), according to WIPO.

From The Associated Press



**New York Philharmonic President and Executive Director Zarin Mehta, left, listens as North Korea's U.N. ambassador, Pak Gil Yon, speaks at Avery Fisher Hall in New York in December about plans for the New York Philharmonic to perform in Pyongyang this month.**  
MARY ALTAFFER/AP

# Can music pierce Pyongyang's isolation?

BY BURT HERMAN  
The Associated Press

**SEOUL** — The oldest U.S. orchestra is using the power of music to pierce North Korea's isolation, playing a historic concert in the communist nation as the two countries struggle to resolve a protracted standoff over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program.

The New York Philharmonic will be the most prominent American cultural group to travel to North Korea since the peninsula's division after World War II. The orchestra departs Monday for the North after a tour of the greater

China region, and will perform Tuesday evening at the East Pyongyang Grand Theater in a concert to be televised internationally and live inside the country.

"Our hope is to bring this great music to as many people living there as possible, people who may not otherwise be exposed to such a performance, and touch their lives in the way that this music so often touches ours," Philharmonic President Zarin Mehta said in a statement this week.

The performance comes amid a U.S. diplomatic push to engage North Korea in the wake of Pyongyang's October 2006 nuclear

test that cemented its status as a nuclear-armed state. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill said Wednesday that the concert was in line with U.S. efforts to show North Korea that Washington harbors no hostile intentions, as Pyongyang repeatedly claims.

"Sometimes the North Koreans don't like our words; maybe they'll like our music," he said in Seoul.

Hill was touring the region to prepare for a trip next week by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who will be in South Korea for the Monday inauguration of the country's new president and also travel to Japan and China.

## IN THE STATES

## Virtual fence to secure part of Ariz. border

BY EILEEN SULLIVAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A 28-mile "virtual fence" that will use radar and surveillance cameras to try to catch people entering the country illegally has gotten final government approval.

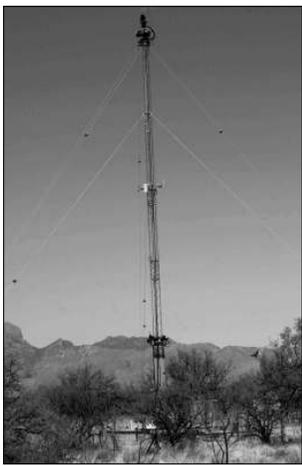
Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announced approval of the fence on Friday. The fence, built by the Boeing Co., uses technology the government plans to extend to other areas of the Arizona border, as well as to sections of Texas. The projects could get under way as early as this summer, said department spokeswoman Laura Keehner.

The virtual fence is part of a national plan to secure the southwest border with physical barriers and high-tech detection capabilities intended to stop illegal immigrants on foot and drug smugglers in vehicles. As of Thursday, 302 miles of fencing had been constructed.

Chertoff said the virtual fence already is working. On Feb. 13, an officer in a Tucson command center — 70 miles from the border — noticed a group of about 100 people gathered at the border. The officer notified agents on the ground and in the air. Border Patrol caught 38 of the 100 people who tried to cross illegally, and the others went back into Mexico, said a Homeland Security official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The virtual fence system includes 98-foot unmanned surveillance towers that are equipped with an array of sophisticated technology including radar, sensors and cameras capable of distinguishing people from cattle at a distance of about 10 miles. The cameras are powerful enough to tell group sizes and whether people are carrying backpacks that may contain weapons or drugs.

"I have personally witnessed the value of this system, and I have spoken directly to the border patrol agents who are involved in operating that system over the last few months and who have seen it produce actual results in terms of identifying and allowing the apprehension of people who are illegally smuggling across the border," Chertoff said.



DAVID SANDERS, ARIZONA DAILY STAR/AP

**Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff on Friday announced approval of a "virtual fence" meant to catch people entering the country illegally.**

## U.S. toughens employers' fines

WASHINGTON — The government says it will raise by 25 percent the fines it will levy against employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants.

The increase is the first boost in fines in nearly a decade. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the federal agency responsible for investigating illegal hirings, has stepped up its enforcement of the employer sanctions law in the past year, leading to a dozen major busts. Currently, fines range from \$2,000 to \$10,000 depending on the offense. The agency says some penalties could include at least six months in jail.

From The Associated Press

## Justice Department probes waterboarding

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department has opened an internal investigation into whether its top officials improperly authorized or reviewed the CIA's use of waterboarding when interrogating terror suspects, documents released Friday show.

The investigation was revealed at the request of Democratic Sens. Dick Durbin of Illinois and Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island. A Justice Department spokesman, however, said the inquiry has been ongoing for several years.

## Name of F-15 pilot killed in crash released

PENSACOLA, Fla. — The Air Force says 1st Lt. Ali Jivanjee was the F-15C Eagle pilot killed in a training flight collision with another fighter jet over the Gulf of Mexico.

Eglin Air Force Base did not give the hometown of the 26-year-old man who died Wednesday after ejecting from the jet. He had joined the Air Force in 2004. The pilot of the second jet ejected and survived in good condition.

From The Associated Press

## Lawmaker indicted in scam

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican Rep. Rick Renzi was indicted Friday on charges of extortion, wire fraud, money laundering and other matters in an Arizona land swap scam that allegedly helped him collect hundreds of thousands of dollars in payoffs.

A federal indictment unsealed in Arizona accuses Renzi and two former business partners of conspiring to promote the sale of land that buyers could swap for property owned by the federal government. The sale netted one of Renzi's former partners \$4.5 million.

Renzi is a three-term member of the House. He announced in August that he would not seek re-election.

As part of the alleged scam, Renzi and his former business partner, James W. Sandlin, concealed at least \$733,000 that the congressman took for helping seal the land deals, the indictment says.

"Renzi was having financial difficulty throughout 2005 and needed a substantial infusion of funds to keep his insurance business solvent and to maintain his personal lifestyle," the indictment says. The indictment accuses Renzi of



Renzi

using his position as a member of the House Natural Resources Committee to push the land swaps for Sandlin, who was also charged. It comes after a lengthy federal

investigation into the land development and insurance businesses owned by Renzi's family.

The legal document says Renzi refused in 2005 and 2006 to secure congressional approval for land swaps by two businesses if they did not agree to buy Sandlin's property as a part of the deal.

Renzi had previously owned some of Sandlin's property, the indictment says.

In early 2005, one of the businesses seeking surface rights for a copper mining project in Renzi's district failed to buy Sandlin's land. As a result, the indictment says, Renzi allegedly told the business, "No Sandlin property, no bill."

## GAO: Personal info remains vulnerable in federal agencies

BY FREDERIC J. FROMMER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nearly two years after an embarrassing flap in which veterans' personal information was put at risk of identity theft, federal agencies are still not doing all they can to prevent further lapses, investigators have found.

Most of the two dozen federal agencies examined by the Government Accountability Office, Congress' investigative arm, had not implemented five federal recommendations aimed at protecting personal information. Only two agencies — the Treasury and Transportation departments — met each of those recommendations. Two others — the Small Business Administration and the National Science Foundation — had met none of them, the GAO found.

The other 18 agencies met the recommendations to varying degrees.

The recommendations were among those issued by the White House Office of Management and Budget following the 2006 VA incident, when a computer hard drive containing millions of names, Social Security numbers and birth dates was stolen from a VA employee's home in Maryland. The hard drive was later recovered intact.

A spokesman for the Small Business Administration, Sean Rush-ton, said Friday his agency has im-

plemented all five recommendations since the GAO did its review.

"The findings released in this report are very troubling — indicating that agency after agency has failed to make securing citizens' personal information a high priority," said Sen. Norm Coleman, a Minnesota Republican, who asked for the GAO report along with Rep. Susan Davis, D-Calif.

"The clock is ticking, and we need to know when the agencies are going to have the protections in place to stop the numerous data breaches we have seen over the past few years," he said.

Coleman, the ranking Republican on the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, and Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, the ranking Republican on the Homeland Security Committee, wrote to the agencies asking them how soon they would be able to implement the recommendations.

"The federal government collects and stores large amounts of personal information that is a tempting target for identity thieves," Collins said. "Agencies cannot act quickly enough to implement policies to help protect and secure this sensitive data."

The GAO looked at OMB recommendations such as encrypting data on mobile computers and other devices that carry agency data, and using a checklist to protect personally identifiable information that is accessed remotely or physically transported outside the agency.

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# Heroic girl on the mend in Detroit

BY COREY WILLIAMS

The Associated Press

**DETROIT** — Alexis Goggins climbed aboard a special tricycle and maneuvered through hospital hallways, beginning the months of physical therapy she needs to recover from six gunshot wounds.

To many people, the soft-spoken 7-year-old is a hero after she threw herself across her mother just as a gunman was about to shoot the woman in an SUV. "An angel is what I call her," Seliethia Parker said of her daughter.

After more than two months in the hospital and six surgeries, Alexis was recently released. She returns twice a week for physical therapy.

The young girl bears several scars from the Dec. 2 shooting, including a long, thin surgical line stretching from one side of her hairline to the other. Her right eye, which was blinded in the attack, has also been removed.

During rehabilitation, she rides a tricycle designed to be pedaled with a person's hands and plays hand-eye coordination games.

"It'll be good for therapy," Alexis is promised her mother before bounding back to the games.

Alexis speaks little about the shooting. "She remembers bits and pieces, but she's not really talking about it much. It's like she's blocking it out or some-

thing," said Parker, 30.

The mother and daughter were getting a ride from a friend when Parker's former boyfriend emerged from the shadows outside Parker's house and jumped into the vehicle. He then forced the friend to drive at gunpoint for several minutes.

Under the pretense of needing fuel, Parker's friend stopped at a Detroit gas station to call 911.

Inside the SUV, Parker pleaded with the gunman not to shoot. As he was about to open fire, Alexis cried, "Don't hurt my mother!" and jumped into her mother's arms from the back seat.

Despite her daughter's efforts, Parker was shot twice.

Alexis is learning-disabled and lags behind other youngsters her age. As a result, police say, it may never be known whether Alexis meant to shield her mother from the bullets. But Parker has said that if her daughter had not put herself in between she might have been killed.

Calvin Tillie, a 29-year-old former convict on parole, is charged with two counts of assault with intent to commit murder, along with other offenses. Parker said she met Tillie last year but called off the relationship after three months.

The Associated Press left messages with his court-appointed at-



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

**Alexis Goggins shares a laugh with the in-house school teacher at Children's Hospital in Detroit. The 7-year-old faces months of physical therapy for the wounds she got leaping between her mother and a spray of gunfire.**

torney, Kim Basen Michon.

Since the attack, Alexis and her family have received more than 200 letters from well-wishers, some from as far away as London.

Supporters have also contributed \$30,000 to a fund set up for Alexis through her school.

In addition to the physical therapy, she also meets with a teacher

assigned to the hospital until she's ready to return to school. And in the coming weeks, she will be fitted with an artificial eye.

Parker says her daughter is a living miracle.

"I'm thanking God every day that me and my baby are still here," she said. "It has taught me to ... appreciate the smaller things in life."

## Calif. court upholds Simpson civil judgment

**LOS ANGELES** — A state appellate court has upheld the renewal of a \$33.5 million civil judgment against O.J. Simpson in a decade-old wrongful death lawsuit.

The 2nd District Court of Appeal on Wednesday rejected an argument by Simpson that Los Angeles Superior Court no longer has jurisdiction over him because he now lives in Florida.

A civil jury in 1997 found Simpson liable for the 1994 stabbing deaths of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ron Goldman at Nicole's Brentwood home. Simpson was acquitted in 1995.

## College Board accuses firm of obtaining tests

The owner of the SAT and PSAT exams sued a Dallas area test preparation company Wednesday, accusing it of illegally obtaining copies of "live" test questions that it then used to help students practice.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Dallas, alleges that Karen Dillard's College Prep company improperly used copyrighted College Board material to create its own test-prep curriculum.

It also alleges that company employees were given copies of the PSAT administered last October that were provided by a Plano, Texas, high school principal whose brother works at the company.

From The Associated Press

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# Clinton, Obama keep it cordial

BY BETH FOUHY

The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Hillary Clinton, the front-runner no more, sought to bury Barack Obama, but also to praise him in their latest campaign debate and revive her own White House hopes in the process.

"No matter what happens in this contest — and I am honored, I am honored to be here with Barack Obama," she said at the conclusion of the 90-minute forum. "Whatever happens, we're going to be fine."

It was an unexpectedly gracious moment in a debate that was supposed to be a game changer for Clinton in the run-up to critical primaries in Texas and Ohio March 4. After losing 11 straight contests to Obama in a race now clearly breaking his way, the former first lady chose the high road and even delivered what sounded to many like the dress rehearsal for a campaign valedictory address.

Her remarks were "almost a quasi-concession speech," said Texas state Rep. Rafael Anchia, who backs Obama.

Clinton doubtless didn't intend her words to be taken that way.

In a round of television appearances Friday morning, Clinton said her remarks were intended as "a recognition that both of us are on the brink of historic change."

"I'm very proud that we have the two of us in this contest seeking the Democratic nomination, hoping to become our next president," she said on CBS's "The Early Show." She is seeking to be the first woman president, and Obama the first black president.

Clinton worked hard during the debate to draw contrasts with Obama on issues, pressing her argument that Obama's health care reform proposal would leave 15 million people uninsured. Obama



LM OTERO/AP

**Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton shake hands Thursday at the end of the Democratic presidential debate in Austin, Texas.**

has countered that Clinton's plan, which requires everyone to carry insurance, would force people to purchase coverage they can't afford.

But otherwise, Clinton steered away from any hard-hitting criticism of her rival. She agreed with him on most matters raised in the debate, including immigration policy and fixing the economy.

Clintonsidestepped a question of whether the Illinois senator is ready to be commander in chief — an argument she makes clearly and forcefully before most campaign audiences.

"I will leave that for voters to decide," Clinton said, opening an

opportunity for her rival.

Obama, for his part, controlled the pace of the evening — calmly going toe to toe on issues with Clinton while forcefully challenging her argument that he is all

Clinton's only attempt to get tough was a crack about Obama borrowing lines from Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick — an argument pressed by her campaign this week, with little apparent effect.

"Lifting whole passages from someone else's speeches is not changing you can believe in, it's change you can Xerox," Clinton said, eliciting a chorus of boos.

"She's somewhat boxed in: play nice and let the Obama momentum continue, or sharpen the attacks and risk a backlash. It's the Hobson's choice faced by all trailing candidates," said Dan Newman, a California-based Democratic strategist not affiliated with either candidate.

## Election08

promise and no results.

"The implication is that the people who've been voting for me or involved in my campaign are somehow delusional," Obama said.

"The thinking is that somehow, they've been duped and they're going to see the reality of things."

# McCain making stops in Midwest

BY LIZ SIDOTI

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — His nomination assured, John McCain got an early jump on the general election this week with a swing through Midwestern states likely to be pivotal in the fall and a fresh line of criticism against Barack Obama.

"I will compete very strongly here in the heartland of America," the Republican nominee-in-waiting said in Ohio, underscoring the importance of the state and the region.

With Obama and Clinton still fighting for the Democratic nomination, "the GOP's likely standard-bearer is laying groundwork now for the fall by visiting key states and trying to define his opponents, particularly Obama."

This, McCain took his sharper criticism of Obama to five middle America states this week.

He began in Wisconsin, at a county GOP dinner and a get-out-the-vote rally. By Tuesday, he was in Ohio celebrating a Wisconsin victory that inched him closer to the 1,191 convention delegates he needs to clinch the nomination.

McCain also stopped in Indiana on Wednesday and toured a Ford Motor Co. assembly plant in Michigan on Thursday. He rounds out the week Friday in Indiana with a town-hall style meeting.



McCain

## Police officer escorting Clinton dies after crash

DALLAS — A police motorcycle officer died after a crash while escorting Hillary Clinton's motorcade to a campaign rally.

"We are just heartsick at this loss of life in the line of duty," Clinton said at the rally.

Dallas police spokesman Sgt. Gil Cerda said he had no details on the crash, which happened shortly after 9 a.m.

## City Council reconvenes 2 weeks after shooting

KIRKWOOD, Mo. — The first City Council meeting since a gunman stormed City Hall and killed five people began with a sense of togetherness that didn't last long.

After opening with a moment of silence to remember the rampage two weeks ago, the meeting turned into a bitter fight over how the St. Louis suburb will move on now that three city officials are dead and the mayor is incapacitated.

Among the dead was Connie Karr, an alderwoman who was running for mayor. Last week the city had her name removed from the ballot, leaving only alderman Arthur McDonnell listed.

Dozens attended Thursday's meeting to criticize the move, saying it undercut the voters' right to choose their mayor in the April election.

Spectators boomed and groaned during a long and disorderly public comment period; some yelled at city officials as they spoke.

City Attorney John Hessel explained repeatedly that Karr's name was removed from the ballot at her husband's request. He said it was impossible under city and state law to delay the vote, except if a disaster occurred on the day of the election.

Hessel criticized many of the speakers who questioned his legal rationale and suggested he wasn't honoring Karr's legacy. He survived the shooting attack only after throwing chairs at Thornton to fend him off before police arrived.

From The Associated Press

## Storms slam Midwest, Northeast



BEBETO MATTHEWS/AP

A pedestrian walks along Eastern Parkway on Friday as a winter storm blankets the Brooklyn borough of New York. The storm caused headaches for commuters and delayed flights at the region's major airports. In Missouri, where the problem was mostly ice rather than snow, the State Highway Patrol cited slippery roads as factors in accidents that killed five people Thursday and early Friday.

# Homeless finding shelter in foreclosures

BY THOMAS J. SHEERAN  
The Associated Press

**T**he nation's foreclosure crisis has led to a painful irony for homeless people: On any given night they are outnumbered in some cities by vacant houses, and some street people are taking advantage of the opportunity by becoming squatters.

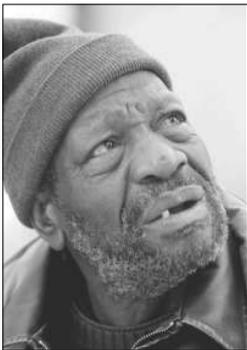
Foreclosed homes often have an advantage over boarded-up and dilapidated houses abandoned because of random conditions: Sometimes the heat, lights and water are still working.

"That's what you call convenient," said James Bertan, 41, an ex-convict and self-described "bando," or someone who lives in abandoned houses.

While no one keeps numbers of below-the-radar homeless finding shelter in properties left vacant by foreclosure, homeless advocates agree the locations — even with utilities cut off — would be inviting to some. There are risks for squatters, including fires from using candles and confronting with police, dealers, prostitutes, cooper thieves or police.

"Many homeless people see the foreclosure crisis as an opportunity to find low-cost housing with some privacy," Brian Davis, director of the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, said in the summary of the latest census of homeless sleeping outside in downtown Cleveland.

Davis, a board member of the National Coalition for the Homeless, cited factors including the availability of shelter in foreclosed homes, aggressive sidewalk and street cleaning and the relocation of a homeless feeding site. He said there are an average 4,000 homeless in Cleveland on any given night, based on an estimate of 15,000 single-family homes vacant due to foreclosure in Cleveland and suburban Cuyahoga County.



TONY DEJAN/AP

**William Reed has gone inside empty homes in Cleveland, where there may be 15,000 vacant properties due to foreclosure, but thinks it's too risky to spend the night.**

In Texas, Larry James, president and chief executive officer of Central Dallas Ministries, said he wasn't surprised that homeless might be taking advantage of vacant homes in residential neighborhoods beyond the reach of his downtown agency.

"There are some campgrounds and creek beds and such where people would be tempted to walk across the street or climb out of the creek bed and sneak into a vacant house," he said.

Bertan, who doesn't like shelters because of the rules, said he has been homeless or in prison for drugs and other charges for the past nine years. He has noticed

## Foreclosure and homeless data

Homeless in U.S.: 3.5 million any given year.

Homeless any given night: 444,000.  
U.S. foreclosures: 2.2 million filings last year.

SOURCES: National Coalition for the Homeless, RealtyTrac Inc., AP reporting

the increased availability of boarded-up homes amid the foreclosure crisis.

He said a "fresh building" — recently foreclosed — offered the best prospects to squatters.

"You can be pretty comfortable for a little bit until it gets burned out," he said as he made the rounds of the annual "stand down" where homeless in Cleveland were offered medical checkups, haircuts, a hot meal and self-help information.

Shelia Wilson, 50, who was homeless for years because of drug abuse problems, also has lived in abandoned homes, and for the same reason as Bertan: She kept getting thrown out of shelters for violating rules. "Every place, I've been kicked out of because of drugs," she said.

Michael Stoops, acting executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, hasn't seen evidence of increased homeless moving into foreclosed homes but isn't surprised. He said anecdotal evidence — candles burning in boarded-up homes, a squatter killed by a fire set to keep warm — shows the determination of the homeless to find shelter.

Davis said Cleveland's high foreclosure rate and the proximity of downtown shelters to residential neighborhoods has given the city a lead role in the homeless/foreclosure phenomenon.

Many cities roust homeless from vacant homes, which more typically will be used by drug dealers or prostitutes than a home-

less person looking for a place to sleep, Stoops said.

Police across the country must deal with squatters and vandalism involving vacant homes.

■ In suburban Shaker Heights, which has \$1 million homes on wide boulevards, poorer neighborhoods with foreclosed homes get extra police attention.

■ East of San Francisco, a man was arrested in November on a code violation while living with water service in a vacant home in Manteca, Calif., which has been hit hard by the foreclosure crisis.

■ In Cape Coral, Fla., a man arrested in September in a foreclosed home said he had been living there since squating a friend move out weeks earlier.

Bertan and Wilson agreed that sleeping in a foreclosed home can be dangerous because the locations can attract drug dealers, prostitutes and, eventually, police.

William Reed, 64, a homeless man who walks with a cane, thumbed through a shoulder bag holding a blue-bound Bible, notebooks with his pencil drawings and a plastic-wrapped piece of bread as he sat on a retainer wall in the cold outside St. John Cathedral in downtown Cleveland. He's gone inside empty homes but thinks it's too risky to spend the night.

Even the inviting idea of countless foreclosed empty homes didn't overcome the possible risk of entering a crack house.

"Their brains could be burned up," said Reed, who didn't want to detail where he sleeps at night.

Sometimes it's hard to track where the homeless go.

In Philadelphia, the risk is too great to send case workers into vacant homes to check for homeless needing help, said Ed Speedling, community liaison with Project H.O.M.E. "We're very, very wary of going inside. There's danger. I mean, if the floor caves in. There's potential danger. Sometimes they are still owned by someone," Speedling said.

# Pier pressure in NYC

## Everyone agrees something must be done about waterfront landmark, but no one is sure what

BY KAREN MATTHEWS

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — A former cruise ship terminal, Pier 40 on the Hudson River is now home to a parking garage and athletic fields.

And as might be expected in space-starved Manhattan, it's also at the center of a fight over how best to use the scarce land.

The Related Cos., one of the city's biggest developers, wants to build a \$625 million entertainment complex that would house Cirque du Soleil, the Tribeca Film Festival and attract up to 2.7 million visitors a year.

The proposal has been denounced by neighborhood residents, who say it would bring traffic congestion and pollution and overwhelm the scale of the downtown neighborhood.

"It's too commercial," said Philippe Archard, watching his daughter Manon play soccer on a recent winter day. "I don't think it's healthy for the children."

Pier 40 was built in 1963 for the Holland America steamship line.

The 14-acre structure, with views of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, is now home to a giant parking facility, artificial-turf fields and a trapeze school.

But Pier 40 is in bad shape. Chunks of the roof have fallen on parked cars, and officials say the pier needs tens of millions of dollars in upgrades.

"Everybody is agreed that we can't just let the pier fall into the river," said Diana Taylor, the banker who chairs the Hudson River Park Trust, the body that must determine Pier 40's future.

The trust's board met Jan. 31 and decided not to accept or reject either of the two proposals it has received — Related's plan for an entertainment complex, with the playing fields moved to the roof, and a more modest plan built around a day camp.

A group of sports-league partners called the Pier 40 Partnership had submitted a third plan — not a formal proposal but a concept using tax-free bonds to maintain the pier without high-impact development.

The trust's board put off any decision until the end of March and said the three groups should work together.

A ribbon of waterfront from lower Manhattan to the Upper West Side, the Hudson River Park was created in 1998 by a state law intended to reclaim old piers and underused shoreline for recreational use.

Under the law that created it, the Hudson River Park is supposed to support itself. Funds for upkeep are to be raised at commercial centers including Pier 40, which now generates \$6 million a year from the parking garage.

The advantage of Related is that it is a large developer with enough money to shore up the pier, build its entertainment complex and pay the trust at least the same \$6 million a year it receives now.

But Related would not commit to a 30-year lease, which is required by law, because it might not make back its investment by then. It wants a longer term.

Pier 40 sits at the western end of Hudson Street straddling Green-



HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST/AP

**This artist's rendering of one of the proposed redevelopment projects for Pier 40 shows a \$625 million entertainment complex that would house Cirque du Soleil and the Tribeca Film Festival, with athletic fields on the building's roof. Neighbors call it too commercial.**

wich Village and SoHo, neighborhoods that have been on the front lines of the preservation wars since they defeated Robert Moses' plan for an expressway through lower Manhattan in the 1960s.

"The life of a neighborhood is at stake," said Irene Kaufman, one of hundreds who attended the trust's Jan. 31 meeting. "You can't have a commercial development paid for on the backs of children."

Taylor stressed in an interview that the pier needs money-making attractions.

"The problem is that the residents here and the Pier 40 Part-

nership don't want a lot of people on the pier," she said. "They just don't."

The second Pier 40 proposal is from a team headed by CampGroup, which runs summer day camps including one upstate that some New York City children are bused to. The CampGroup plan would feature a day camp for 1,000 kids charging \$1,000 a week.

Richard Caccoppolo, a member of the partnership that would keep the playing fields where they are and raise money for the pier's upkeep through bond financing, said the trust should have thrown out the Related and CampGroup plans and started over.

## FACES

### Lopez gives birth to twins – boy and girl

Jennifer Lopez gave birth to twins early Friday, making the singer and husband Marc Anthony the parents of a boy and a girl after one of pop music's most closely watched pregnancies.

Lopez representative Simon Fields told People magazine the babies were born shortly after midnight on New York's Long Island, with the 5-pound, 7-ounce girl arriving first, followed by her 6-pound brother minutes later. The location was not identified.

"Jennifer and Marc are delighted, thrilled and over the moon," Fields told the magazine.

Lopez' publicists and agent did not return telephone calls from The Associated Press early Friday.

Ending months of speculation, Lopez confirmed her pregnancy at a Miami concert in November. Her father, David Lopez, told Teletur's "Escandalo TV" earlier this month that the 39-year-old singer was expecting twins.

Lopez and Anthony, 38, married in 2004. The twins are her first children, and his third and fourth.



Lopez

### Spears' pal ordered to stay away

A federal judge on Thursday ordered Britney Spears' pal Sam Lutfi to stay away from the struggling pop star. U.S. District Court Judge Philip Gutierrez extended a restraining order against Lutfi until March 17, when a hearing was scheduled on the matter.

The action came on the same day Lutfi was formally served with the restraining order, which was issued earlier this month by a Superior Court commissioner.

In court papers, Jeffrey Wexler, an attorney for her father, James Spears, wrote that "after three weeks of apparently evading service," Lutfi was served at 11 a.m. outside his Los Angeles apartment.

The order, which requires Lutfi to stay 250 yards away from Spears and her home, was set to expire Friday. Wexler has asked for the order to be extended.

### Witherspoon sitting in producer's chair

She might be a tad shy about cracking the whip on set, but Reese Witherspoon is every bit the shot-caller.

"I hate being in charge so I'd say I'm more of a collaborator," laughs the producer and co-star of the independent film "Penelope," opening this Friday. "I don't want to be the one to tell [the crew] that they have to stay for two extra hours or come in at 6 o'clock in the morning."

Now Witherspoon, 31, is back in the producer's chair with the magical love story "Penelope."

"When my producing partner, Jennifer Simpson, brought me the script, I just loved the idea," she remembers. "There's a great girl at the center of the story who's sassy and funny and smart and opinionated, yet she has obstacles to overcome."



Witherspoon

### Combs ready to take on Hollywood

Sean "Diddy" Combs says he wants to move to Hollywood and become a full-time movie star.

The East Coast-based entertainment mogul aims to get top billing on the big screen.

"Yeah, leading a man kind of stuff; you know, jumping off of buildings," Combs says in an appearance scheduled to air Friday on CBS' "Late Show With David Letterman."

Besides action-packed adventure, the rapper-producer's ideal film roles would also include "making love to beautiful women" and "very emotional, heart-wrenching scenes."



STEFANO PALTERA/AP

Actors Hal Holbrook and Ruby Dee, both in their 80s, are up for supporting actor and actress Oscars.

## Octogenarians Holbrook, Dee make history as Academy Award nominees

BY DAVID GERMAN

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES

Ruby Dee and Hal Holbrook have rarely crossed paths in their acting careers, but they have much in common.

Both were born in Cleveland a few months apart in the 1920s.

Both developed an early passion for literature. Both shaped early professional lives largely on the stage, then gradually built venerable half-century careers in film and television.

Both have won Emmys, yet inclusion in the highest honors in show business, the Academy Awards, eluded them until this year, when Dee became the second-oldest actor and Holbrook the third-oldest ever nominated.

Dee is up for supporting actress as Mama Lucas, the mother of Denzel Washington's Harlem drug lord in Ridley Scott's "American Gangster," while Holbrook is nominated for supporting actor as Ron Franz, a lonely widower living in the desert who befriends Emile Hirsch's free-spirited wanderer in Sean Penn's "Into the Wild."

Longtime acquaintances, the two actors sat down together with The Associated Press at the secluded Hotel Bel Air before the American Association of Retirement Persons' Movies for Grownups Awards, where Holbrook received a lifetime-achievement honor and Dee earned the prize for best supporting actress age 50 or older.

Neither feels slighted that they never received an Oscar nomination before now, "they gave up such dreams long ago, saying the roles they were able to land were not the stuff Oscars are made of; Dee because of her race, Holbrook because of his typecasting as an attorney or corporate suit.

"It was an exclusive club as far as African-Americans were concerned, and also Asians and Indians and other groups," said Dee, 83, whose "American Gangster" role earned her the supporting-actress trophy at the Screen Actors Guild Awards. "I didn't have the kind of talent or personality that kept me dreaming about Hollywood. They don't hire little colored girls to do this or that. After I got that in my head, I took another direction."

Holbrook, 83, said he'd given up on an Academy Award, which airs Tuesday.

"The chances were none," he said, "because I was at a point in my career before Sean gave me this wonderful role where I was playing pretty predictable guys in pin-striped suits mostly, which is not natural to me, to tell you

the truth. I don't know lawyers very well. I don't even want to know lawyers very well. I'm an outdoors person."

Growing up in Harlem after her family left Cleveland for New York, Dee developed a taste for poetry and joined the American Negro Theater while studying at Hunter College. She worked extensively in theater and television and co-starred in such films as "The Jackie Robinson Story" and "A Raisin in the Sun."

Dee and husband Ossie Davis, who died in 2005, worked together so often on stage, television and film that they were almost a package deal. Their credits including Spike Lee's "Do the Right Thing" and "Jungle Fever," and the stage and film versions of Davis' play "Purlie Victorious." An Emmy winner for the TV movie "Decoration Day," Dee did a guest spot on Burt Reynolds' 1990s TV comedy "Evening Shade," on which Davis and Holbrook were regulars.

After studying drama in college, Holbrook toured in theater, was a regular on the 1950s soap opera "The Brighter Day" and debuted his best-known character in 1959 with the one-man show "Mark Twain, Tonight."

Holbrook has played the author in thousands of performances and did a TV version of the show in 1967.

A five-time Emmy winner for such parts as the title roles in the political drama "The Senator" and "Sandburg's Lincoln," Holbrook had a recurring part on the 1980s sitcom "Designing Women," which co-starred wife Dixie Carter.

Though Holbrook had a memorable role as Deep Throat in "All the President's Men," he rarely got big-screen parts worthy of his talents.

Besides acting, Dee has kept busy writing lyrics and dialogue for musicals, saying she feels confident she could have a new career as a writer.

"Yeah, I have a feeling of confidence now, too, about the career," said Holbrook, adding that a number of potential film jobs may come his way because of "Into the Wild." "The last several years, any roles I've been offered in a movie you could count on half of one hand, maybe one hand. Somebody said to me the other day, 'Hal, your career is just beginning.' Maybe it is and maybe it isn't, who knows? Maybe all this stuff will fall out."

"You know, Hal, I think something's happening for the senior," Dee told Holbrook. "We're living 25 years on average longer than we used to. I think there's some use for us after a time, and I'm beginning to see that not only for myself. There's more of us living longer. Also, we buy things, so we comprise a commercial market. I think something is changing and that we have the power to help make the changes."

"I'm for the army of elders, you understand? I believe we've got a lot of work to do."

SPECIAL TO STARS AND STRIPES

# Walter Scott's Personality PARADE®

Want the facts? Opinions? Truth? Write Walter Scott, Box 5001, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-5001. Full name will be used unless otherwise requested. Volume of mail makes personal replies impossible.

**Q** When he died, Heath Ledger was working on "The Dark Knight" and "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus." Will the films go on? — S.B., Miami

**A** The producers of "Imaginarium" were forced to shut down their \$30 million indie film but had completion insurance and could file a claim to recoup their losses. Warner Bros., the studio behind "The Dark Knight," already had finished shooting Ledger's scenes as the Joker in that Batman sequel, which is due out stateside July 18.



NBC

Linus Roache is the third actor to do the "Law and Order" gig.

**Q** How did Dick Wolf, creator of "Law & Order," pick the actor who replaced Sam Waterston when Sam replaced Fred Thompson? — J.C., Tacoma, Wash.

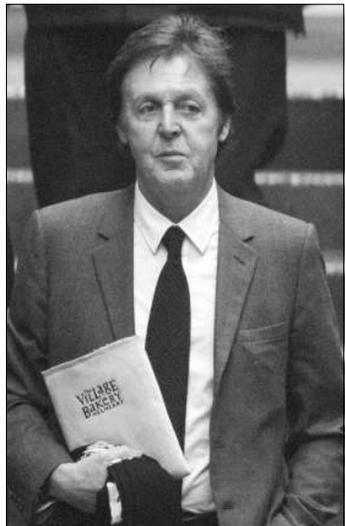
**A** "Dick had me audition in a courtroom full of extras and cross-examine a witness," says Linus Roache, 44, a Brit who adopts a New York accent to play Executive Assistant D.A. Michael Cutter. We assume Thompson, 65, now regrets leaving the show on his quixotic quest for the Presidency.

**Q** I hear Paul McCartney has a heart problem that's crippling his life. True? — Lorraine Taylor, Cooper City, Fla.

**A** False. The ex-Beatle denies reports that he needed an angioplasty to open blocked arteries and says he merely was tested for a minor irregularity. Sir Paul, 65, tells us, "Nothing has affected any of my projects or activities." That seems to include his love life: He's been dating high-profile ladies on both sides of the Atlantic.

**Q** Did Olympic skater Michelle Kwan retire? — Barbara McDonald, Spanish Fort, Ala.

**A** No. Michelle, 27, is just taking a break to finish her degree in political science at the University of Denver. Asked if she'll try for Olympic gold in 2010 in Vancouver (she already has silver and bronze), Kwan tells us: "I haven't decided if I'll participate."

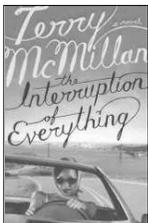


Warner Bros.

Heath Ledger completed filming all his scenes for "The Dark Knight" before his recent untimely death. The other movie production he was involved with wasn't so fortunate.

**Q** A pair of Broadway tickets are riding on this: I say Ethel Merman was the best Mama Rose ever in the musical "Gypsy." My husband says Angela Lansbury. Who wins? — L.D., Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

**A** Go Dutch. Our choice is Bernadette Peters, who gave the performance of her career in a 2003 revival of "Gypsy." But Bernadette is in for stiff competition next month, when Patti LaPone, who's played Mama Rose in "Chicago" and elsewhere, comes to Broadway. Readers, vote for your favorite at Parade.com.



**Q** My friend says Oprah Winfrey chose Terry McMillan's "The Interruption of Everything" for her book club. I say the novel never made the list. Has it? — A.G., San Diego

**A** Not yet. But the novel was featured on Oprah's show, and she has optioned it for a movie. Incidentally, of the 61 books chosen so far for Oprah's Book Club, Toni Morrison leads with four picks, followed by William Faulkner with three.

**Q** You said John Travolta deserved an Oscar nomination for "Hairspray." I agree. Who else do you think was robbed in this year's race? — E.H., Westwood, Calif.

**A** Denzel Washington should have been acknowledged for "American Gangster," and Josh Brolin was overlooked for "No Country for Old Men." In the Best Actress category, Keri Russell impressed us in "Waitress," as did Amy Adams in "Enchanted."

**Q** Who started the current trend among young male stars of wearing their hair over one eye? — Ernie Melcher, Abington, Pa.

**A** It evolved from the Goth look, popular with teens. But it was "High School Musical" star Zac Efron, 20, who made it hip. "The look is called 'emo chic,' because it expresses deeply felt emotions," says Beverly Hills hairstylist Kim Vo. To us, it looks like a bunch of guys channeling the peeka-boo hairdo of '40s film star Veronica Lake.



SHNS

Once the "slouchy hat" style went mainstream, Zac Efron was too cool for it.

**Q** Marooned on a desert isle in the film "Cast Away," Tom Hanks became emaciated. So why hasn't Hurley, the chubby guy on "Lost," lost any weight? — Corinne Wilson, Long Beach, Calif.

**A** Unlike Hanks' character, Jorge Garcia, 34, the former stand-up comic who plays Hugo "Hurley" Reyes, needn't worry where he'll get his next meal on "Lost." Besides the island's natural bounty, the survivors found food left by the mysterious Dharma Initiative.

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ABC

Why doesn't Hurley ever lose weight? Those wily "Lost" writers have an answer for everything, be it ever so hokey.

Sir Paul McCartney is taking advantage of the global dating scene until ex-wife Heather Mills gets all his money.

## City names female interim police chief

**TX** FORT WORTH — For the first time, a woman will lead the Fort Worth police force — at least temporarily.

City officials announced that Executive Deputy Chief Patricia Knobick will start Feb. 1 as interim police chief. She succeeds Ralph Mendoza, who is retiring after 35 years with the Fort Worth Police Department.

Knobick, a 26-year department veteran, has been second in command since 2001, serving as acting chief during any of Mendoza's absences. She directs the Executive Services Bureau, one of the department's six bureaus that includes training, internal affairs and staff services.

In 2005, she led the department's response when thousands of evacuees arrived in the city after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

## GIs to hit trail to raise money for homeless vets

**ME** JAY — Two former Army sergeants who served together in Iraq plan to hike the entire Appalachian Trail to raise money for the nation's homeless veterans and draw attention to their plight.

Jared Greeley, 25, of Jay and Marshall Berry, 28, of New Hampshire plan to travel to Georgia to begin the more than 2,000-mile trek to Maine on March 8.

## Police investigate attack on Jewish center

**CA** LOS ANGELES — Someone threw a fiery object at a Jewish community center in the San Fernando Valley, and police are investigating the attack as a hate crime.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles says someone threw a Molotov cocktail at its community center in West Hills. No injuries or damages were reported.

Police spokesman Mike Lopez couldn't confirm whether the object was a Molotov cocktail. He says it was a flammable object which caught fire.

The city's police and fire departments are investigating the attack as a hate crime.

## Law will prevent selling of coyotes for hunting

**IN** MUNCIE — State wildlife officials have drafted a law intended to prevent wild coyotes from being sold to people who then hunt them down with dogs.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources learned last year that coyotes trapped in the state were being exported to Southern states for use at enclosed hunting facilities.

## Bill would fund Medicaid with bingo

**AL** MONTGOMERY — State Rep. Marcel Black said he'll introduce a bill to legalize high-stake electronic bingo games at greyhound race tracks in Birmingham and Mobile, with tax revenue going to the Alabama's cash-strapped Medicaid Agency. Medicaid officials say



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

they need \$150 million more than last year's budget to fund the agency in the next fiscal year.

## Planned Parenthood records sought

**KS** TOPEKA — A prosecutor says a grand jury investigating Planned Parenthood needs documents to determine whether it is profiting from the sale of tissue from aborted fetuses, a suggestion decried as false and malicious by an attorney for the group.

Johnson County District Attorney Phill Kline and Planned Parenthood are battling over a grand jury subpoena for medical records from the organization's clinic in suburban Kansas City.

Abortion opponents forced the county to convene the grand jury using a petition process in place in Kansas law since 1887.

## Families settle with hospital in murder case

**NJ** TRENTON — The families of New Jersey patients murdered by a serial killer nurse have settled a lawsuit with the hospitals where he worked, an attorney representing two of the families said.

The confidential settlement with five hospitals where Charles Cullen worked was reached after court-ordered mediation between the sides, attorney Michael Barrett said.

The lawsuit was filed in New Jersey Superior Court more than four years ago.

Cullen, who told investigators



## Moon-hattan

A fully-eclipsed moon is seen next to the Empire State Building in New York.

he might have killed as many as 40 patients in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, pleaded guilty to killing 29 people and attempting to kill six others.

He admitted using lethal doses of medications — usually the heart medication digoxin — to kill patients. When he was arrested in 2003, Cullen described the slayings as mercy killings.

## Bobbleheads will keep funding on track

**AK** FAIRBANKS — The University of Alaska has distributed bobbleheads to state lawmakers and business leaders. A university spokeswoman said the idea is to remind legislators mulling UA funding that the university trains Alaskans to fill high-demand jobs. The bobbleheads come in five versions: a nurse, a teacher, an engineer, a scientist and a construction manager.

## \$31M bridge to connect beach, land

**NC** SUNSET BEACH — Crews plan to begin work this month on a new high-rise bridge that will replace a wooden pontoon bridge connecting Sunset Beach to the mainland. Construction will start on the mainland side, and the \$31 million bridge is scheduled for completion in 2010. Opponents protested over environmental issues, but a federal judge refused to halt the project.

## Ex-cell phone exec now president at university

**MO** COLUMBIA — Former SprintNextel chief executive Gary Forsee started work as the new University of Missouri system president. He replaced Elson Floyd, who left Columbia last year for the presidency of Washington State University. Forsee, 57, is a Kansas City native and 1972 graduate of the University of Missouri-Rolla.

## Woman sentenced in death of her newborn

**PA** EBENSBURG — A woman whose newborn daughter was found dead in plastic bags in her parents' home was sentenced to between two and nine years in prison.

Jennifer Strelnik McKendree, 34, who had hidden her pregnancy from her family, went as she told the judge she was sorry for what happened.

"Not a day goes by I don't think of her, tell her I love her and think of what might have been," said McKendree, who pleaded guilty in December to involuntary manslaughter.

## If a cat can't take the heat, he leaves

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — Miko the cat, missing since a fire in December destroyed her owner's home here, was found about 240 miles away in Pueblo, Colo. Animal shelter officials there located her owner with the help of Miko's microchip and helped drive her back to Albuquerque. Officials speculate the cat hid in a truck that went to Colorado.



Home improvement Sixteen-year-old Caitlin Leavoy of Tuesday's Children, a group of children who lost a parent during the Sept. 11 attacks, is among 23 teenagers volunteering with Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans.



"F" for spelling Cars pass a misspelled traffic sign along Ocean Drive in Corpus Christi, Texas, that reads "Trucks Entering Highway." The sign was supposed to say "Trucks Entering Highway."



Staying strapped A cyclist, with a shovel strapped to the basket, pedals alongside the huge snowbanks of Lincoln Street in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.



**First kiss?**

**Maddy Haffner, 11, of Fairhope, Ala., kisses a young alligator as students from the Marietta Johnson School of Organic Education take a field trip to Alligator Alley in Summerdale, Ala. More than 150 alligators, from hatchlings to adults, populate the 20-acre site in Baldwin County, Ala.**



**Dog parade**

**As a police officer stops traffic, Kaitlin McGrath leads all her neighborhood dogs around a roadway construction site in Wilmington, Mass.**



**Golden arches**

**A buyer inspects excavators at the start of the Ritchie Bros. auction in Orlando, Fla., where 6,200 items are being sold.**



**Power broker**

**David Carnes of Xcel Energy and fellow workers from Amarillo, Texas, upgrade the Chaves County Substation located along East Pine Lodge in Roswell, N.M., by installing a new capacitor bank addition.**

**Musician pushes for law against impostors**

**IN** INDIANAPOLIS — Former Sha Na Na frontman Jon “Bowzer” Bauman testified before lawmakers in favor of a bill that would crack down on impostor bands posing as famed musicians. Bauman told an Indiana House committee that fake acts are robbing musicians of money and their legacies. After the panel advanced the bill, Bauman sang a little deep-voice doo-wop.

**Ga. lawmakers want to reclaim Tenn. river**

**GA** ATLANTA — Thirsting for more water in the midst of a drought, Georgia lawmakers took a step toward moving the state line and tapping into a powerful river in a neighboring state. The state Senate unanimously approved a resolution asserting that a flawed 1818 survey mistakenly placed Georgia’s northern line just short of the mighty Tennessee River. The measure would establish a commission to sort out the dispute.

The state House was expected to take up the measure the same day. The legislation alone can’t move the state line. That would require an agreement between Congress and the states, a long-shot prospect that Tennessee officials have scoffed at.

**Stowaway cat headed back home to Florida**

**AZ** PHOENIX — A cat who took a three-week cross-country ride to Arizona in a storage container is headed home to Florida. Arizona Humane Society officials say the 2-year-old gray cat crawled into the locker in Pompano Beach, Fla., while a man loaded it for a move to Phoenix.

The container spent time in a Florida warehouse and on a semi-trailer before being delivered to a Phoenix facility. A worker heard a cat meowing inside the container. The cat, named Meatloaf, was hungry and thirsty but unharmed. The man who was moving remembered a similar cat near his old apartment.

**Mass. agency cutting back to fix \$127M debt**

**MA** BOSTON — The new head of Massachusetts’ Turnpike Authority says it will take 12 to 18 months to get the agency running efficiently. Alan LeBovidge, who took over in November, says he already let go a lobbyist, a public relations specialist and a landscape architect. The authority is trying to refinance debt worth \$127 million.

**Wal-Mart apologizes to Muslim woman**

**UT** RIVERDALE — Wal-Mart Stores Inc. apologized to a Muslim woman who said she was mocked because of her face veil. “Please don’t stick me up,” a cashier told the shopper, according to The Council on American-Islamic Relations. Wal-Mart apologized in a letter signed by Rolando Rodriguez, a vice president and regional general manager.

Rodriguez said employees at the Riverdale store would undergo “sensitivity training,” specifically in the Islamic faith and Muslim culture.

**Police seek 2 suspects in shooting that killed 1**

**FL** MIAMI — Police say two male suspects are being sought in a shooting of seven people in Miami.

One victim died and six adults and a child were wounded in the shooting. One of the adults is in critical condition.

Police spokeswoman Martha Carbana says the two suspects fled in a green vehicle.

The shooting occurred in a neighborhood of single-family homes in the city’s blighted Liberty City.

**Man charged with taking \$2M in name mix-up**

**NY** NEW YORK — A man was charged with withdrawing \$2 million from an account after a bank confused him with a man who has the same name. Benjamin Lovell was arraigned on grand larceny charges.

The 48-year-old salesman said he tried to tell officials at Commerce Bank in December that he did not have a \$5 million account. He says someone told it was his and he could withdraw the money.

The lesser-funded Lovell gave away some of the withdrawn money and blew some of it on gifts, but lost much of it on bad investments, prosecutors said.

**Gray wolves may face hunters, trappers again**

**MT** BILLINGS — Federal officials will announce a final decision on whether gray wolves in the Northern Rockies should come off the endangered species list — an action federal biologists have said is imminent.

Planned for several months, the stripping of federal protection for wolves means an estimated 1,500 of the animals in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming would face public hunting and trapping for the first time in decades.

“The wolf population is doing great. The ESA (Endangered Species Act) worked. We’ve got a lot of wolves in a lot of places,” said Ed Bangs, wolf recovery coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Tax plan to offset deficit creates uproar in Calif.**

**CA** SACRAMENTO — California’s multi-billion-dollar budget shortfall has grown, the state’s nonpartisan fiscal watchdog said as she offered a trim-and-tax plan that competes with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s proposal for across-the-board cuts.

The report by Legislative Analyst Elizabeth Hill shifted the state’s fledgling budget debate to whether new taxes should be part of the solution — an approach the Republican governor has opposed.

It also sparked the kind of partisan sniping that Democrats and Republicans had so far avoided in hopes of preventing a repeat of the protracted budget debate that paralyzed the capital last summer.



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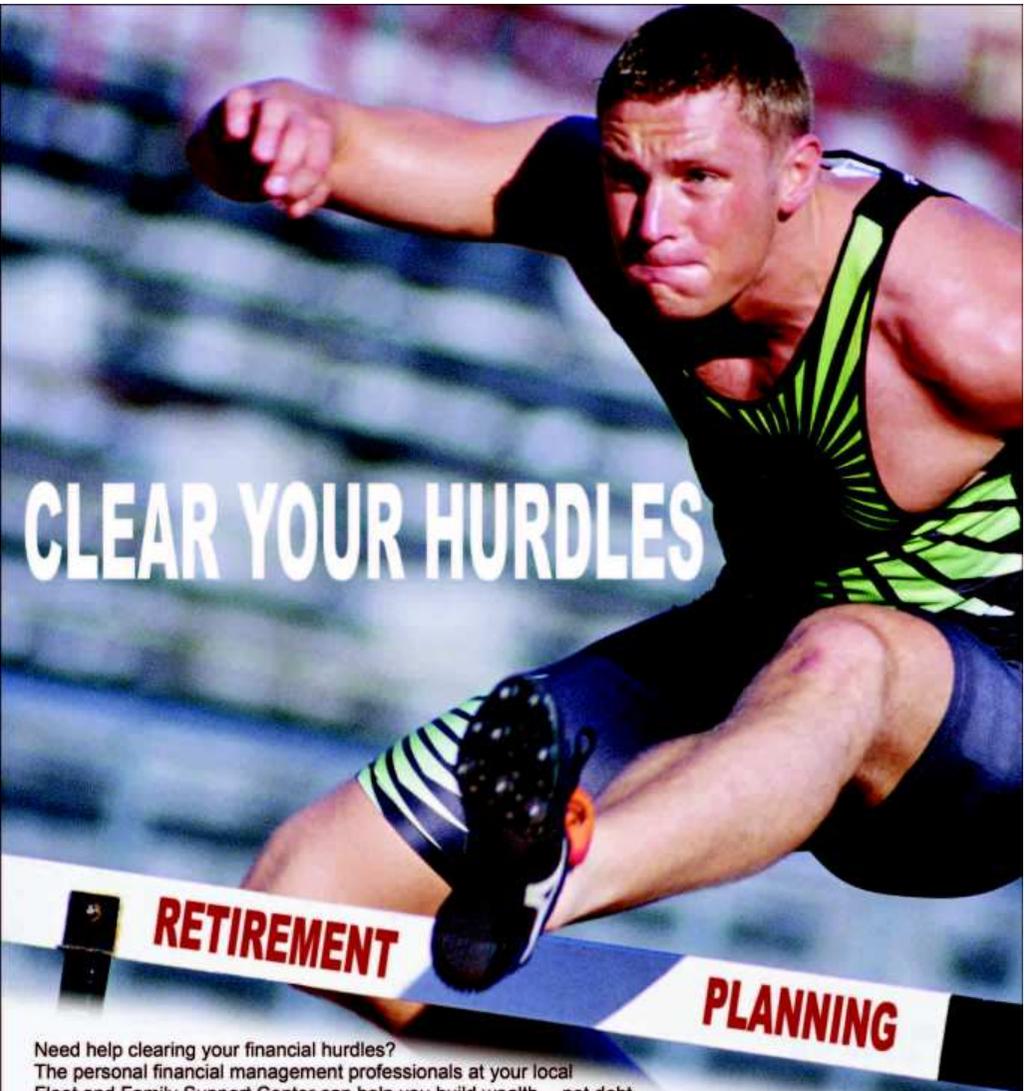
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STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

Anti-missile system no threat yet

By Joel Brinkley

It doesn't take much to rile Vladimir Putin, the irascible, autocratic Russian leader. But nothing the Bush administration has done in the last seven years has angered Putin more than the proposal to base anti-missile systems in several nations along Russia's border.

Earlier this month, once again, Putin warned that he will train Russia's ballistic missiles on any state that chooses to host the American anti-missile bases. "We are warning people ahead of time," he said. "If you take this step, then we will make this step."

Flush with oil money and hungry to regain Russia's stature, Putin seems eager to use the United States as a foil. Still, how smart is it to stick a finger in his eye particularly for anti-missile systems that, at best, remain highly speculative research projects? Why on earth does President Bush need to press for basing rights just now, picking an unnecessary fight, when at the moment the United States has nothing worthwhile to deploy on these bases?

To understand this better, consider the two complementary systems under development: anti-missile missiles and the airborne laser that is supposed to destroy a missile soon after launch.

I have a bit of personal experience with anti-missile missiles, in Israel during the first Gulf War. The United States deployed a Patriot anti-missile battery just outside Tel Aviv, to counter Saddam Hussein's Scud attacks. One night, I stood on a hotel balcony to watch as a Scud arced in from the east, trailing fire in its wake. Below me, a Patriot launched with a roar.

Moments later, the two missiles met high above the city, and the Patriot exploded, destroying the Scud, just as it was supposed to. But then the fiery debris from both missiles — including the Scud warhead — rained down on Tel Aviv and destroyed two homes. What did the Patriot accomplish?

Today, most anti-missile missiles are intended to intercept the target in

mid-flight, not a trivial task. Experts like to use another weapons analogy and say this is like "a bullet trying to intercept a bullet." With current technology, the missiles can easily find their targets, but decoys can easily fool them. The military has not even begun testing for that problem. What's more, the missiles are primarily intended to attack inter-continental ballistic missiles, not a serious threat today.

The airborne laser offers several theoretical advantages. It would be mounted on an airplane, and the laser could be re-aimed to follow the target missile. What is more, since the idea is to destroy the missile shortly after launch, it would not have had time to deploy decoys. The debris would fall on the enemy country.

Or so the advocates say. Even a cursory look at this program exposes so many vulnerabilities that it's a wonder the government is spending money on this — nearly \$5 billion since 1998, including \$514 million during the current fiscal year. There's no need even to think about the many daunting technological challenges. The concept is hopelessly flawed.

The laser is supposed to have a range of about 200 miles. Well, if Iran, China, Russia or even North Korea launched a missile from deep within its territory, the airborne laser, circling offshore, would not be able to reach it.

Perhaps if Jamaica launched a missile, the laser might stand a chance.

That problem aside, the enemy would need only polish and buff the missile skin. Most of the laser beam would reflect away. The enemy could design the missile to spin. That way the laser could not hold its beam on one spot which it must do to burn a hole in the side. The missile could be insulated so heat could not penetrate. It could use super-cool liquid fuel that cools the exterior skin.

If none of that works, shoot down the laser plane, a large, lumbering Boeing 747.

"That's a big sitting duck," said Jan

Stupl, an airborne-laser expert at the University of Hamburg.

If the enemy is deaf and dumb and fails to consider any of these ideas, here are more: Fire the missile while the laser plane is out of range, or being refueled. Or simply fire two or three missiles. The laser plane can hit only one at a time.

"It's never going to be a real defense system," said Dean Wilkening, a missile-defense expert at Stanford University.

Perhaps Bush wants to deploy these billion-dollar droll marionettes to create facts on the ground that the next president could not easily undo. Maybe Putin's blustering is intended primarily for a domestic audience.

But my advice for Putin: Spend your time on something you're good at: disqualifying opposition candidates, arresting journalists. Stop worrying about the American anti-missile bases.

Joel Brinkley is a former Pulitzer Prize-winning foreign correspondent for The New York Times and now a professor of journalism at Stanford University. He writes for McClatchy-Tribune News Service.

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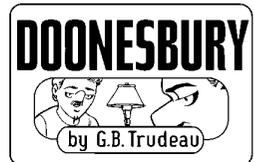
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OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Paying tribute to presidents Lubbock (Texas) Avalanche-Journal

Many adults remember celebrating the Feb. 12 birthday of Abraham Lincoln and the Feb. 22 birthday of George Washington each year when they were children...

The office of president is a very difficult job that can also be a dangerous one. Four of our 43 presidents — Lincoln, James A. Garfield, William McKinley and John F. Kennedy — were assassinated in office. Others, such as Gerald Ford and especially Ronald Reagan, who was seriously wounded, had narrow escapes...

When the next Presidents' Day rolls around, America will have a new president living in the White House. That person, the 44th U.S. president, will face opposition from the first moment he or she takes office and will endure criticism that will last long after the 45th president has taken up residence at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

It is an extremely difficult job in which it is impossible to please everyone.

Not every president has the stature of George Washington or Abraham Lincoln, but they all have earned their places in history, and they deserve recognition from their nation.

Mortgage 'Hope' not enough Akron (Ohio) Beacon Journal

Mortgage lenders and loan service companies are facing the foreclosure crisis as a national problem that demands national solution. Partly on that basis, the industry association, the Mortgage Bankers Association, rejected an overture last fall for mortgage companies in Ohio to join in a voluntary compact proposed by Gov. Ted Strickland.

The mortgage companies preferred to address foreclosure prevention through a national alliance, Hope Now... The alliance has not lived up to expectations.

The idea for Hope Now, launched last fall, was that participating loan servicing companies would be amenable to freezing low introductory interest rates and renegotiating loans for thousands of borrowers with supprime adjustable rates. The companies were required to notify such borrowers 120 days before the loans reset. Homeowners could call a toll-free number for guidance. So far, the effort has led to loan modifications for a mere 10,000 borrowers from the 76,000 who are on the hot line.

The less-than-satisfactory outcome hardly surprises.

Essentially, Hope Now is little more than a phone service, not advocates, as one official put it, "trying aggressively to convince their clients to do something." Which is precisely the problem.

End gun ban on campuses The (Colorado Springs, Colo.) Gazette

Here we go again, but it has to be said: Northern Illinois University is another gun-free zone. So when a sus murdery showed up at a lecture hall Thursday, nobody had the means to stop him. As a result, he was able to shoot 21 people, killing five.

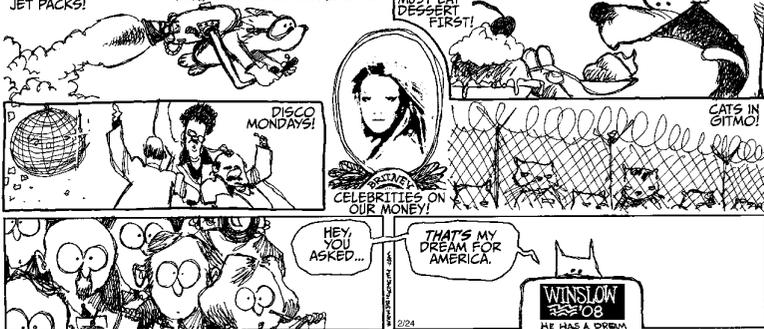
Illinois is largely a rural state, and lots of students at Northern Illinois University own weapons and know how to use them in defense. Unfortunately, the code of student conduct requires that all weapons be stored in the university security office.

We can be reasonably certain that the policy told the killer, who strategically planned a brief, rapid-fire assault, this

PRICKLY CITY

JET PACKS!

© 2008 by Scott Stantis, a freelance cartoonist from 1988-2008



much: Nobody in the crowd will take you out when you start shooting.

That, in fact, was the case. Everyone but the killer obeyed the school's gun rule, giving him the time and freedom he needed to kill...

Since those who administer schools aren't getting the message, it's time to consider state-by-state bans on gun prohibition at public universities. And it's time for states to require high schools and elementary schools to provide reasonable security for students. It's the least we can do.

Race to determine Mich. vote Kalamazoo (Mich.) Gazette

The Democratic National Convention informed Michigan Democrats that if they persisted in holding an early primary, the DNC wouldn't send delegates from Michigan at the Democratic National Convention in August.

As a result, Democratic candidates ignored Michigan. The additional clout that state Democrats thought they would get by disobeying the DNC evaporated.

But that was back when it was widely assumed that the Democrats would certainly have a clear front-runner after Super Tuesday. Or that at least someone, probably U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton, would clinch the nomination well before the nominating convention. That's not quite so certain now...

Should the Michigan Democratic Party schedule a do-over election this spring or summer? It depends.

If either Obama or Clinton has clinched the nomination by May, then Democrats would be best off to tell the DNC what it can do with its chaos. But what if neither Clinton nor Obama emerges with enough delegates by late spring? Then Michigan Democrats would do well to go along and hold a caucus — at the party's expense, of course. Suddenly Michigan would matter again. Clinton and Obama would both be forced to campaign hard in Michigan...

Although Democrats would like to see the nominating process wrapped up soon and the intraparty sniping laid to rest, Michigan might better benefit from an Obama-Clinton race that goes down to the wire.

The FEMA trailers mess Bristol (Va.) Herald-Courier

The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced plans to send trailers to storm-ravaged counties in Tennessee and Arkansas.

FEMA bought the trailers in 2005 to help the victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, but didn't use them. More than 6,300 trailers remain in storage in Hope, Ark., and 75,000 unused trailers are stored nationwide.

But this isn't a simple story of government waste or bureaucratic ineptitude. It's much worse.

Just two days after the trailers-for-Tennessee announcement, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned of potential health risks. The CDC has confirmed that many of the FEMA trailers contain high levels of formaldehyde gas.

Short-term exposure to the pungent gas causes respiratory problems, nose bleeds and eye irritation. Long-term exposure can cause cancer...

Now, FEMA is looking to unload its tainted trailers on unsuspecting Tennesseans. Outraged, the agency issued a statement vouching that the Tennessee-bound trailers were safe even after the CDC issued its warning. The agency has since said it would test any trailers sent to tornado victims. FEMA leaders should not accept FEMA's word on the matter. The agency has a poor track record...

Behold the regal beagle Chicago Tribune

Behold the beagle, the wildest counter-surfer in dogdom, slow to house break, rarely the valetictorian in obedience class and eager to eat itself to death, given half a chance. The beagle has a lot to say oooooooooooooooooooooo but can't hear you calling if it nose is to the ground, which is always. It ain't nothing but a hound dog, in other words.

So it was a treat to see Uno, the beagle, fetch top honors at the Westminster Kennel Club dog show at Madison Square Garden. Though he represents a breed never absent from the 10 most popular lists, he's the first beagle to win Best in Show in the competition's 132 years.

He bested 26 dogs, including finalists Charmin, an "elegance" Sealyham terrier named for the squeazably soft toilet tissue; Remy, a standard poodle described by one writer as "a cross between a Victorian magistrate and a young Farrah Fawcett"; Marge the Weimaraner; Mosey the Akita; Vikki the toy poodle; and Deuce, an Australian shepherd just back from maternity leave.

With his perpetually wagging tail and his tendency to engage spectators with a burst of look-at-me baying, the underdog charmed crowd and judge alike. The morning after, thousands of people were no doubt in the hunt for a beagle of their own.

Castro exit offers opportunity New York Times

It was age and illness, not the free voice of the Cuban people, that finally led Fidel Castro to announce... that he is stepping down as Cuba's president after a mere 49 years of absolute power.

Castro's immediate successor is likely to be his 76-year-old younger brother, Raul. Still, the post-Fidel era is clearly at hand, and the Bush administration has done almost nothing to prepare for it. Cuba is a closed, repressive society. But

BY SCOTT STANTIS

the administration has gone out of its way to ensure that it has no chance of influencing events there. In the name of tightening the failed embargo, it has made it much harder for academics, artists and religious people to travel to Cuba and spread the good word about democracy, and much harder for Cubans to visit here. Rather than probing the ongoing political transition, the White House has dismissed it in advance as insignificant.

A policy that made little sense in the cold war makes still less in today's age of globalization when America does not hesitate to trade with and invest in other repressive countries (China, for example), recognizing that commerce is more likely than isolation to nurture positive political change.

The embargo provided Castro with a built-in excuse for his own failed economic policies and ruthless political repression. It made it easier for him to wall ordinary Cubans off from American friendships, political ideas and affluent lifestyles. It handed him a propaganda tool to discredit courageous Cubans who openly campaigned for greater democracy. Continuing this policy of isolation will make it easier for Castro to succeed Castro to continue the same repressive policies...

For millions of Cubans, the wait for Castro to go has been almost interminable. Now that he is finally stepping down, Washington needs to do all it can to help encourage a peaceful transition to democracy. It needs to shake off its own ghosts and start talking directly with Cuban politicians and the Cuban people.

Overhaul meat inspection Sarasota (Fla.) Herald-Tribune

If the recent recall of 143 million pounds of beef, four times the previous recall, does not prompt a long-overdue update of the food inspection process, Americans should impose a vote-free diet on lawmakers who ignore the risks of the status quo.

The recall was issued several weeks after the Humane Society released a disturbing undercover video showing slaughterhouse workers using forklifts and other means to prod cows that were too ill and weak to stand.

Besides the cruelty portrayed, the video raises questions about the thoroughness of U.S. Department of Agriculture inspections...

The Food and Drug Administration, which checks 80 percent of the nation's food supply, receives about 20 percent of the food safety budget. The USDA gets the rest of the money, but the recent recalls have raised questions about whether the money is being used wisely or if it's sufficient to do the job.

A complete overhaul of the inspection system isn't likely in an era of tight budgets. But — as we and others have repeatedly said, recall after recall — federal officials need to begin the work now.

A 143 million-pound recall certainly shouldn't be treated as a routine matter.

# Sunday Horoscope

As Saturn dials into the boundless Pisces-sun frequency, today it might feel good to simply focus on what's in front of us. Even if it's to the exclusion of something else, by virtue of focusing our attention on one thing, we affect everything. Don't be too quick to judge a roadblock as an obstacle; limits help us define precisely where we are.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(Feb. 24).** Your faith in what's good and right is strengthened through the year. Because of your intense belief, a long shot comes through, a miracle materializes and life takes a new trajectory. March is spontaneous and action packed. Changes at work give you the chance to use and develop your talents. Gemini and Cancer adore you.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19)

The love you find is unique. You'll never find another one like it. So consider carefully the person who keeps calling you back to his or her heart. Love comes in many forms, and this is one of them.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You ask for a second chance, and that's what you get. Everyone deserves to be redeemed for missteps, and yours is not as massive as you've built it up to be in your mind.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

You're the recipient of lovely attention. Pull your shoulders back, and give them a dose of who you really are. This afternoon, get aggressive about learning. You're the student who will soon be a teacher.

## CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Go after that thing that makes you go to hide. The more ambitious and brave you are, the more support you'll gather. Friends you make tonight keep you in mind for future opportunities.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

It's fabulous to see and be seen, but it's now time to forgo social niceties, buckle down, get to work and make back some of that money you've been spending. Earth signs like Capricorn are inspiring mentors.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

The urge to act impulsively will be strong but not necessarily wise. Write down your thoughts before acting on them. A Leo or an Aquarius will be a fine sounding board to your inspirations.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Whether you like it or not, you are very appealing to the opposite sex now. Dare to ask out the one you've been flirting with. Tonight, someone is keeping score, contrary to what this person might say.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Love has a way of bringing out the best and the worst in you now. Romantic hopefuls make a play for your attention. Do the sweet, self-

less thing, even though it will probably seem terribly inconvenient.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** On a day as lucky as this one is, it's a crime to let a dream linger in the ether. Act. Ask for help. Others are not only receptive, they seem to care as much as you do about moving your vision forward.

## Holiday Mathis



## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Don't let conflict drag on — it should be easy to solve. Chance is on your side. So the best solution to a problem could very well be a flip of the coin.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

It feels so good to contribute to others that you're not even keeping track of how much you are giving. Be sure to receive graciously, too, or you rob the giver of the wonderful benefits of generosity.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Clear your head. Get some distance from stressful scenarios so you can sort through them with greater ease. Humor helps. A movie ticket to the latest comedy is just what the doctor, and the financial adviser, ordered.

## FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:

The sun, now passing through mystical Pisces, meets with Saturn in Virgo this week, bringing Piscean flow into focus. Do our lives include spirituality? Where can we best focus our creativity? Because Pisces consciousness encompasses all other 11 signs, we've cast our nets wide and may end up picking up more information, garbage and people than we know what to do with. Hmm, did we really need that? To avoid a strange paralysis of will born of overwhelm and TMI, we can enlist the discernment of Virgo, the opposite sign of Pisces, which possesses what the other doesn't: a more focused net. We may decide to eliminate things in our life that take up too much space or time, to make room for what's important. Whereas Pisces, tripping on stars, wonders, "Who needs shoes when we have fairy wings?" Virgo offers, "We all need shoes. Here. They'll help you walk to work and back." As the sun's passage through Pisces renews our souls with spiritual reach, the music of the spheres, ambrosia from the gods, this week, you can count on Saturn in Virgo's sage advice, if only to bring you back down to Earth.

## CELEBRITY PROFILES:

Pisceans looking for love dream of Prince or Princess Charming and find it easy to impress that image upon the objects of their affection, whether really driven or not! In this way, Pisces Kristin Davis does resemble her "Sex and the City" character, Charlotte. Both share a sweet-natured resiliency in love — she may be crestfallen but not broken. The Piscean heart quickly bounces back.

Creators Syndicate

# Mother-in-law's helpful hints come across more as attacks

**Dear Abby:** Have you any tips on how to deal with an emotional bully? My mother-in-law is insulting, but sneaky about it. She insists that she's "just trying to help." If I speak up, she says, "Why are you being so sensitive?" or, "I'm just being honest." She has criticized my parenting skills and chiseled away at my self-esteem more times than I can count.

Because she's my mother-in-law, it isn't easy to get away, I try to keep my busy during holidays and family visits so she won't be able to catch up with me and insult me.

Defending myself doesn't help. If I try, she turns a deaf ear. I need someone, but polite, comments to get her to back off. Please help.

**— Under Attack in West Virginia Dear Under Attack:** Two can play the game of selective deafness. Has it occurred to you to simply tune the woman out? Just because a lack of brains does not mean you have to take the noise to heart.

If, however, you feel compelled to respond, then straighten your posture, look her in the eye and say, "Then I'm going to be honest with you, too. I'm doing the best I can. Your comments are hurtful,

and unless you stop criticizing me, I'm going to spend more time with MY family during the holidays. Got it?" If that doesn't slow her down, do yourself a favor and follow through.

## Dear Abby



**Dear Abby:** I am a 64-year-old woman who is proud to be Jewish. I know there is still anti-Semitism in the world.

We go to Mexico every winter, and the number of Jewish people in our community there is very small.

At home I wear a Star of David on a chain around my neck, but

when we're in Mexico, I feel self-conscious about it. I belong to a large organization in Mexico that is comprised of non-Jews. Should I wear it, and possibly be shunned because I'm Jewish, or leave it at home?

## — Rachael in Buffalo Grove, Ill.

**Dear Rachael:** Your question isn't at all silly. Religion is supposed to be a positive force.

Those who use religion as an excuse to shun others are bigots. You say you are proud of being Jewish. Your Star of David is part of who you are, so wear it. If people avoid you because of your religion, they weren't sincere friends to begin with, nor are

they nice people, and you won't have lost a thing.

**Dear Abby:** I am a 42-year-old woman who has been married for 16 years to a good man. My husband doesn't drink, smoke, nor around or even curse. He's a good father and sometimes helps me with housework.

So please tell me why I cannot stand him anymore — his voice, his laugh and anything about him. I just want out, and I don't know why. I work many hours of overtime just so I won't have to go home. Please tell me what's wrong with me.

## — Wanting To Be Free

**Dear Wanting:** You appear to have fallen out of love with your husband, or have forgotten what attracted you to him in the first place. You could also be having a midlife crisis.

The answer is not to run away or hide out at the office, but to remember why you married him and examine what's going on in your head, with professional help if necessary. Forgive the cliché, but the grass isn't always greener on the other side of the fence. Sometimes it's poison ivy.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby>  
Universal Press Syndicate

# Timing is a good reason to want to be sans relationship

I'm 25 and work in my first TV. Last year was my first year of consistent employment. I'm producing my first documentary, but I still have a long, brutal climb ahead. My girlfriend of a year is extremely pretty, kind, and smart, and has supported me in every aspect of my career. She's outgoing, great with my friends, and even likes football. In short, she's awesome. I never thought I'd fear commitment, but I keep finding myself on the verge of backing up with her (for no good reason, mind you). I know I couldn't do any better than her.

If I were lucky, I'd do just as well. I love her, and I don't use that word lightly, so why can't I think rationally about this?

## — About To Dump A Keeper

"Fear of Commitment" gets a bad name. Supposedly, you're a jerk or psychologically stunted if you express reluctance about throwing yourself into a relationship, yet nobody will diss you, for say, "Fear of Strolling Down a Dark Alley Through a Gauntlet of Gang Members." Or "Fear of Getting on a Plane with a Guy with a Fuse Sticking Out of His Converse."

Anybody who's given any thought to the picnic in the park in hell that commitment can be should feel at least a little edgy about it.

Committing isn't saying "We had fun together today. Let's try to have more fun together tomorrow." You're committing to tomorrow, and next Tuesday, and maybe 3,656 Tuesdays from now. The thing is, you can't promise you'll keep feeling the same way — you can only do your best to stick it out after you feel stuck.

Bit of a buzzkill, huh? Of course, you want to believe everything will be wumnderful, sex will only get hotter, and yours is one of those rare, timeless love affairs. But, the truthful answer to "Will you still love me tomorrow?" is something along the lines of "Gee, I dunno."

Guy's especially are made to feel bad if they aren't gung ho to commit, with "Getting Him To 'I Do'" splash across every other women's magazine, and nary a piece on "Letting Him Do What Works For Him." Men are achievement-oriented, and as a man, you probably have to feel set in who you are and what you do before you can feel ready to

settle down with somebody else.

And yes, even if that somebody else happens to be a physicist who put herself through MIT as a Victoria's Secret model, took night school classes from the Dalai Lama, and can cross her legs behind her head while predicting the Super Bowl winner down to the 100 percent accuracy on the point spread.

You'd have it easier if only your girlfriend would get a little brizzellato-to-be on you. But, lucky you, if this girl clamors for a ring, it'll probably be fried, battered, and onion. So, what do you do when you get what you want and you can't stop wanting it to go away? Well, you don't hate on yourself for itching to break up, and for no good reason." Not being ready for a relationship is a "good reason. If you end it with her, explain that you're a bit of an unmade bed at the moment, and you need to become somebody before you can become somebody's boyfriend. Or, in guy terms, there's a time for giving a girl drawers in your dresser and keys to your place, and a time to buzz in what's name from Wednesday.

Got a question? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave., No. 281, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or e-mail [AdviceAmy@aol.com](mailto:AdviceAmy@aol.com) ([www.adviceodyssey.com](http://www.adviceodyssey.com))  
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## Advice Goddess



RELIGION

# Teens for Jesus seek to clean up popular culture

BY HILLARY RHODES  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK

**H**undreds of teenagers huddled together on a chilly February afternoon in Times Square, not far from where the crowds pack in to see "Total Request Live."

The name they were chanting was no pop star — instead they jumped up and down yelling "Jesus, Jesus!"

The group, organized by the Texas-based Christian group Teen Mania Ministries, was in the Big Apple for an event called "Recreate," during which participants announced a desire to "recreate" music, film, fashion, television and other media to remove explicit language and imagery.

The teens waved signs with slogans like, "Life doesn't have any makeup tests" and, "If God seems far away, who moved?"

There were singers, dancers, artists and speakers who announced eight questions to be sent to the presidential candidates, including, "What should be done to stop glamorizing the things that are destroying my

friends, like drugs, alcohol and sex?" And, "How will you ensure that my freedom to practice Christianity will not be taken away?"

Rebecca Bjerkle, 21, from Phoenix, explained why she came to the rally on Friday: "To make change for our generation, to just stand up and say, 'We're tired of all the filth. ... You know, music and songs that are constantly so negative — just making us numb to the abuse of alcohol and drugs and sex and pornography and all that kind of stuff.'"

Bjerkle came to the rally, which kicked off a two-day Christian event for teens, with two other young women who once banned together to protest the sale of "ornaments" — pornographic Christmas ornaments — at the gift store Spencer's in Phoenix.

Bjerkle said she's concerned the entertainment industry puts too much emphasis on negative world views, explicit language and sexual imagery, and that innocence is being taken away from her generation.

She said America saw happier, more wholesome times 50 years ago, when the problems were different and, in her view, less serious.



GARY HE/AP

Teenagers hold signs and chant during "Battle Cry," a Christian prayer rally, at Times Square in New York.

"Maybe you were talking in class or chewing gum or something," she said.

"But now you have people who show up to class with drugs or guns. I mean, how much worse does it have to get before somebody says or does something?"

Ron Luce, president and founder of Teen Mania, says the main difference between then and now is that marketing has gotten way more sophisticated, and the younger generations are courted for their brand loyalty by any means possible.

"Why does somebody have to dress up in a bikini to sell a hamburger to somebody?" he said, giving an example of how an advertiser might use "very non-inno-

cent ways" to market to young people.

Protesters staging their own demonstration across the street from the "Recreate" rally said Luce's organization encourages young people to toss aside critical thought and follow their Christian leaders blindly.

They held an almost block-long sign that said, "AWAY WITH ALL GODS!" Megaphone in hand, they were at times louder than the hordes of "Jesus"-chanting teens, though far fewer in number.

"They think the problem is that people are disconnected and alienated in society because they don't believe in Jesus," said Debra Sweet, one of the protesters, and national director of the

group World Can't Wait, an anti-Bush organization.

"These are hard-core Christian fundamentalists leading youth — high-school students — really, on the moral equivalent of a crusade," she said.

Luce said a Christian belief system is a better place for teens immersed in pop culture to look to when shaping who they are and how they should behave in the world.

"Instead of going to drugs, instead of cutting yourself, instead of jumping into a gang or something, instead of getting immersed with every little toy you could possibly get in our materialistic society, look and see what the Bible has to say about those issues of the heart, that really, every human being has."

# Mormons learn from Romney's school of hard knocks

BY RACHEL ZOLL  
The Associated Press

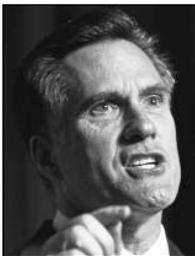
Mitt Romney isn't the only casualty in his failed presidential bid. The Mormon church, yearning for broad acceptance, also took a beating.

Extremists denounced Romney's campaign as a Mormon plot to take over the country. Some evangelicals feared that a Mormon in the White House would draw more converts to his faith.

Mormon practices were picked apart, even ones that had been abandoned long ago such as polygamy. Romney tried to focus on politics, but was often asked about sacred Mormon undergarments.

"It is prejudice," said Richard Bushman, an emeritus professor at Columbia University, who is a leading historian and devout Mormon. "Underlying all these questions is that you believe we are basically crazy so they've got to explain them to us."

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints anticipated some of the backlash and tried to get ahead of it. Well before the



Mitt Romney

former Massachusetts governor officially announced his candidacy, Mormon officials started traveling the country, speaking with reporters and editorial writers about the LDS church and its political neutrality.

The goal was to protect the church. But nonpartisanship handicapped the denomination when it needed a vigorous defense.

"I'm not questioning the policy

of neutrality. That's not in any doubt," said Michael Otterson, the church's media relations director. "But I think the very reality is that we've had to be very careful about choosing our words and not appearing to either be supporting or not supporting a particular candidate."

Before Romney ran, Mormons thought they were generally accepted in the mainstream, especially after their previous success in the world spotlight: the 2002 Salt Lake Olympics.

Yet, in November, half of respondents to an Associated Press-Yahoo poll said they had some problems supporting a Mormon presidential candidate. Among white evangelicals, more than half expressed reservations about backing a Latter-day Saint.

"I was surprised at the level of intensity and sometimes flat out animosity," said Lovell C. Brown, a Los Angeles attorney who is Mormon. "I had no idea. I'm in my 50s, I've been a Mormon all my life, I've lived in L.A. for 25 years, and it floored me."

Many Christians said they

were raising legitimate theological concerns, not Mormon-bashing.

The news service of the Southern Baptist Convention, which considers the LDS church a cult, ran a six-part series through December explaining why they don't consider Mormonism to be Christian. In just one example of the practices that set Mormons apart, LDS church founder Joseph Smith revised — and in his view corrected — parts of the Bible.

Brown said it was "nonsense" to consider questions about Romney's faith simply a dialogue about religion. Mormons were especially outraged when GOP presidential contender Mike Huckabee, a Southern Baptist pastor, asked whether Mormons consider Jesus and the devil brothers. Latter-day Saints say Huckabee's question is usually raised by those who wish to smear the Mormon faith rather than clarify doctrine.

"If you're making a decision about whether or not to vote for someone because of their religion, you're flirting with bigotry,"

said Brown. He monitored the commentary on his blog Article VI, named for the constitutional provision barring any religious test for public office.

Richard Mouw, president of Fuller Theological Seminary, a prominent evangelical school in Pasadena, Calif., said some Christian conservatives consider Mormonism not just a questionable faith, but also a rival political force. He lived in Michigan in the 1960s, when Romney's father, George, was governor there. At that time, evangelicals weren't deeply involved in politics. Many supported George Romney.

"What's going on when his son runs and all of a sudden there's this overt hostility that came out, which did not come out toward his father," said Mouw, who is part of a group of evangelical and Mormon scholars who meet to discuss their theological disagreements. "I'm kind of ashamed of the way that a lot of traditional Christians have handled this."

Yet, Mormons say some good has come from the attacks. Romney's candidacy pulled the church even further into the public square.

## YOUR MONEY

# Risking retirement

## Many Americans tapping into 401(k) to pay off debts

By J.W. ELPHINSTONE

The Associated Press

Trent Charlton knew the risks when he borrowed \$10,000 from his 401(k) and cut his retirement savings in half.

But Charlton, a 40-year-old account executive at an Irvine, Calif., trucking company, said he had little choice because he and his wife could not keep up with monthly expenses after American Express reduced the limits on three credit cards.

As home prices fall and banks tighten lending standards, more people are doing the same thing: raiding their retirement savings just to get by and spending their nest eggs to gas up SUVs, pay mortgages or put food on the table.

But dipping into 401(k) accounts can carry risks because defaulted loans and hardship withdrawals are taxed as income and are subject to a 10 percent penalty if the worker is under 59½ years old. That means if the trend grows, many Americans will risk coming up short on retirement savings.

"People who take out a loan or withdrawal are adding to a looming retirement crisis over the next 30 to 40 years," said Eric Levy, a partner at global consulting firm Mercer.

Some of the nation's largest retirement plan administrators, such as Great-West Retirement Services and Fidelity Investments, are seeing double-digit spikes in hardship withdrawals and increases in loan requests, a sharp departure from levels that traditionally varied little.

Administrators say consumers are using retirement savings to pay for unmanageable mortgages, maxed-out credit cards, and costly utilities and groceries.

Charlton and his wife used the retirement money and \$7,000 from savings to pay down their credit card debt. They also cut monthly expenses by pawning a diamond ring and selling camera equipment he owed money on. And he's looking for someone to take over his \$550 monthly payment on a gray BMW 335i he leased last April.

Charlton said his goal is to pay off the 401(k) loan in two years. He has not decided whether he will contribute to the plan during that time.

"I made the best decision I could," he said. "I keep hearing about bankrupting your future retirement. But I feel like it's far enough away that I'll be able to save up enough."

Charlton's predicament arose as lenders are taking steps to rein in credit because more consumers are missing payments on mortgages, credit cards and loans. Borrowers are finding their credit limits suddenly reduced and low-interest cards hard to come by.

Meanwhile, jobs are harder to

find, and consumers are getting pinched by higher food and fuel prices.

Consumers who tap their retirement accounts can take a loan from their 401(k) accounts worth up to \$50,000, or 50 percent of the

amount invested, whichever is less. There are no tax consequences for a loan in good standing. But if a borrower defaults, the loan is considered a withdrawal and subject to the same tax penalties.

**SEE RETIRE ON PAGE 31**



Trent Charlton poses in front of his leased BMW outside his Irvine, Calif., home. To help pay down credit card debt, Charlton recently withdrew \$10,000 from his 401(k) account and is trying to find someone to take over the lease on his BMW.

MARK AVERY/AP

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**Autos for Sale - Japan 146**  
Yokosuka - 1991 Ford Mustang, automatic, 5.0 liter, conventional, 31state mileage, 68,000 miles. Best asking \$5,000.00 only. Contact Bill at 810-438-8934 or 411 in Okinawa and Japan. [bill@yaho.com](mailto:bill@yaho.com)

**Autos for Sale - Japan 146**  
Yokosuka - 1999 Skyline GT-R in black and red. 17 inch 3" cut back exhaust. Alpine head unit with CD connection. HKS sport exhaust. 1700 cc dual exhaust. V6 with automatic. New interior. Changed twice per year. Black leather/ cloth seats. In dash navigation system. Whidden anti-rattle. 5 ETC Pearl white - cleaned twice prior to sale and waxed all pin stripe products. Custom grill/headlight eyebrows. 144k. 30000 miles. JCI 2010 Exceptionally maintained, runs like a champ; driven Yokosuka-Mitsuba-Yokota twice with a single issue. \$4500.00 replacement or \$8000.00 navigation. Japanese insurance. Negotiation value is \$9000. Email for additional pictures. Difficult to reach me by telephone. Keep trying. YVRN at 080-3200-6636 or 411 in Okinawa and Japan. Asking 210-975-8879. [06330403@yaho.com](mailto:06330403@yaho.com)

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Zama - 2004 Skyline 3.5SE/line V6, 2dr. Sport Coupe. Silver. Hismo Tuned Special Edition. Excellent Condition. The Ultimate Driving Experience. Automatic/PWR-Shift. Power Everything. Real Sport. ABS/Driver's Side Air. Sunroof. DVD/NAV. In-Dash 6-CD. Radio. Custom Grill/Headlight Eyebrows. Call: 210-9931-4249

**Autos for Sale - Korea 148**  
Carroll - 184 Mustang LX hatch back. 3.8L V6, auto, copper brown, original window sticker and most receipts since new. \$2,700.00. 011-8565-7454

**Autos for Sale - Korea 148**  
Kusan - 2007 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT, 134 miles. White w/Red/Gray Cloth Int. Airbags. ABS, snow"tye, 3 power doors. DVD parking sensor, full car. K8B \$2,155. Asking \$2,150. Total 010-987-8879. 0 6 3 3 4 6 3 7 9 0 6. [td93@yaho.com](mailto:td93@yaho.com)

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**Autos for Sale - Korea 148**  
Zama - 2007 Jeep Liberty Limited 4x4, black, less than 4500 miles, 3.7 Liter, Auto, leather, 6 cd disc, sunroof, rust protection and 10 year warranty. \$42,000.00. Call NATE at 011-8993-4249

**Autos for Sale - Korea 148**  
Seoul/Taegu - 2005 AEMF Land DUC 2.4 liter, 4 door, White. Automatic, Sunroof, EAGLE Call 011-8993-4249

**Autos for Sale - Korea 148**  
Seoul - 2006 BMW M3 2-door coupe, 3.0L 6-cylinder, Bright Red, 30k miles. Special premium package, leather, CD with Harmon Kardon system, moonroof, power everything, heated seats, new tires new wheel, great car. Asking \$22,700.00. Call Chris at 010-4528-8427.

**Autos for Sale - Korea 148**  
Yongsan - 2006 BMW M3 2-door coupe, 3.0L 6-cylinder, Bright Red, 30k miles. Special premium package, leather, CD with Harmon Kardon system, moonroof, power everything, heated seats, new tires new wheel, great car. Asking \$22,700.00. Call Chris at 010-4528-8427.

**Autos for Sale - Korea 148**  
Yongsan - 2006 BMW M3 2-door coupe, 3.0L 6-cylinder, Bright Red, 30k miles. Special premium package, leather, CD with Harmon Kardon system, moonroof, power everything, heated seats, new tires new wheel, great car. Asking \$22,700.00. Call Chris at 010-4528-8427.

### Announcements 040

**Autos for Sale - Okinawa 152**  
Foster - 1992 Nissan Presea - Red color. JCI good up to Aug. of 2008. Call (989) 9260169 for details. Look for David or Paula. We are PCSing soon so we need a serious offer!

**Autos for Sale - Okinawa 152**  
Foster - 1992 Toyota Surf - 1998, Emerald Green. JCI good up to Aug. of 2008. Email Bobbi for pictures at [bobbib@yaho.com](mailto:bobbib@yaho.com) or call 545-5415

**Autos for Sale - Okinawa 152**  
Foster - 1992 Nissan Skyline - Automatic, exterior gray. Gray interior. Body kit. 12/2009. Fog Lights, CD Player. 5-Speed. 4-Door. 1700 cc. 1700 cc. Windows. Spoiler, Premium Wheels. Shell in good shape. You need more information? Just contact me. It can be reached at 725-2458-R1. J0K717@YAHOO.COM CPL Restrictor.

**Autos for Sale - Okinawa 152**  
Foster - 1999 Red Toyota Aurion - Red color. JCI good up to Aug. of 2008. Call (989) 9260169 for details. Look for David or Paula. We are PCSing soon so we need a serious offer!

**Autos for Sale - Okinawa 152**  
Foster - 1999 Mazda3 Jet - Silver color. JCI good up to Aug. of 2008. Call (989) 9260169 for details. Look for David or Paula. We are PCSing soon so we need a serious offer!

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Kadena - '94 White Toyota ED, 110,000 km (68K miles), AC unit OK. 2nd. Tinted Windows and cold AC. No issues. Price: \$2,900. New tires & battery. 4 doors. \$2,900. OBO. Call: 813-333-4111 or [krisant19@yahoo.com](mailto:krisant19@yahoo.com)

### Motorcycles - Okinawa 170

Kadena - '92 Honda CBR 600F2. 20,000 miles. Excellent condition. Well maintained. Recent work: 2007. 16,000 miles. Imported from US. (Florida) and insurance title. Can export to US. \$3,800. OBO call: [krisant19@yahoo.com](mailto:krisant19@yahoo.com)

Kadena - '94 Honda CRF 600. 16,000 miles. Excellent condition. Well maintained. Recent work: 2007. 16,000 miles. Imported from US. (Florida) and insurance title. Can export to US. \$3,800. OBO call: [krisant19@yahoo.com](mailto:krisant19@yahoo.com)

### Auto Parts 180

Kadena - Complete front and rear seats for '97 Honda VTR with 1800K logo stitching. Good condition paid \$300. Contact: [okidave@comcast.net](mailto:okidave@comcast.net)

Kadena - Lemson Lot of Virtual Lot for a closer look. Complete exhaust system with a Nismo can for ProRacer looking. Asking \$200. Call: [okidave@comcast.net](mailto:okidave@comcast.net)

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### Baby Items 200

Kadena, Okinawa - Graco Quatro Deluxe Travel System. Excellent. - Broiler seat, stroller, car seat. D.B. baby used. Retail set is \$200. \$80. Call: 813-333-8929 or e-mail: [okidave@comcast.net](mailto:okidave@comcast.net)

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Kadena, Okinawa - 2006 Zondoo Sun SR10 RIB with trailer. No engine, but holds up to 200 lbs. Call: 813-333-8929 or e-mail: [okidave@comcast.net](mailto:okidave@comcast.net)

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Kadena, Okinawa - Entertainment TV stand 50" long and 18" deep. \$100. Call: 813-333-8929 or e-mail: [okidave@comcast.net](mailto:okidave@comcast.net)

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Kadena, Okinawa - 15 Gateway 4GB RAM. Excellent condition. Bought for \$350 and selling for \$150. Call: 813-333-8929 or e-mail: [okidave@comcast.net](mailto:okidave@comcast.net)

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Kadena, Okinawa - Complete Car System. Profound head unit, pioneer 750 watt amp, 2x 6" speakers, 2x 6" subwoofer. All original sealed boxes. Comes with 500+ hours of music. More than a year old over \$1200. E-mail: [okidave@comcast.net](mailto:okidave@comcast.net)

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# Sorenson gets attention with 5th place in opener

BY MIKE HARRIS  
The Associated Press

While most of the attention during the offseason has been on his older and far more experienced teammates, 22-year-old Reed Sorenson has been quietly preparing for a big season.

The youngster, beginning his third full NASCAR Sprint Cup season with Chip Ganassi Racing, got off to a great start Sunday with a fifth-place finish in the season-opening Daytona 500.

Meanwhile, former Formula One star Juan Pablo Montoya, last year's top Cup rookie, was 32nd and Ganassi newcomer Dario Franchitti, last year's Indianapolis 500 and IndyCar Series champion, finished 33rd.

The day before the big race, Ganassi was asked about Sorenson.

"I think we've seen a maturation process in that guy over the winter and he's stepped up," Ganassi said. "I think part of that is having Juan as a teammate last year has helped him step up. I think bringing Dario on has helped him step up.

"He's stepping up. He's doing what we've asked him and what we want him to do. He's doing exactly what we want him to do. We couldn't be happier."

Sorenson, driving one of six

## Racing notes

Dodges to finish in the top eight, said his fifth top-five finish in 75 Cup races was a conservative drive.

"The first half of the race was so hot and slick," he said. "You could see everyone out there separating. We took the conservative side on tires. We just tried to keep an eye on the leaders — if we could still see them we were happy.

"We knew there were going to be cautions at the end. We just took care of the tires, took care of the car and went after it there at the end."

**Stat of the week:** Jimmie Johnson and Matt Kenseth can only hope history repeats itself this week at California Speedway.

A year ago, both got off to a rough start at Daytona with Johnson finishing 39th and Kenseth 27th. A week later, at the California track, Kenseth won and Johnson finished third, getting both back on solid footing.

In the end, Johnson won his second straight Cup title and Kenseth wound up fourth in the standings. Both kept alive their streaks as the only drivers to qualify for the Chase for the championship in each of the four years that the format has been used.

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# Hornish Jr. gets off to memorable start

## Three-time IndyCar champion, new father runs strong in his first Daytona 500

BY JENNA FRYER

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — There was no time for Sam Hornish Jr. to celebrate his 15th-place showing in the Daytona 500. The open-wheel star had to hustle back to Ohio to pitch in on diaper duty.

Hornish's first child, a daughter, was born the week he reported to Daytona, and his commitment to racing caused him to miss 10 of the first 14 days of her life. He raced home following Sunday's season-opener so he could take over the midnight feedings wife Crystal had been handling alone.

"I've been gone for about five days out of each week over the past two weeks that she's been around," he said. "My wife's been pretty much home alone taking care of things herself and I had to give her a little bit of a break. It's been great as a first-time father and is something that I've been looking forward to for a very long time.

"I'm really happy about that and hope everything continues to go as well with that as it has with the racing."

Spending time with baby Addison didn't prevent Hornish from reliving his first Daytona 500. He found time while baby-sitting to watch a replay of the entire race, which ended with a 1-2 finish from Penske Racing teammates Ryan Newman and Kurt Busch.

"My hands were sweating with 20 laps remaining and I had already been in it — lived through it," Hornish said. "That's



Sam Hornish Jr.

how exciting it was for me."

Hornish had the best Daytona debut of all the new open-wheelers, running in or around the top 10 for almost the entire race. A mistake on a late pit stop, when he slid the nose of his Dodge outside the box and had to back up, cost him several positions and he had to hustle in the closing

laps to salvage his finish.

"It probably kept us from having a top-10 finish," he guessed. "I think that was about the only hiccup that we had really all day long. To be a rookie at the Daytona 500, and to do what we set out to do — which was to get a top-20 finish — we were able to accomplish that and I was just really happy with how everything worked."

It completed a banner day for Penske Racing, which gave team owner Roger Penske his first Daytona 500 win. Penske has 14 Indianapolis 500 victories, but was empty in 23 previous years at Daytona.

As thrilled as the owner was for Newman's win and the impressive display of teamwork it took to accomplish it, Penske was just as pleased with Hornish's performance. Hornish, a three-time IndyCar Series champion and the last of Penske's Indy 500 winners, relied on Penske's advice before making this move to NASCAR.

Struggles in his handful of starts last season — and his failure to qualify for his first six starts — had led many to believe the switch to stock cars was going to be a difficult transition for the most successful American driver in IndyCar history.

"I would say that I was really surprised (with the Daytona finish), but I was confident when we made the decision to bring him in," Penske said. "He drove a masterful race. He was working with the teammates. I think he's going to be a real great team player.

"To finish 15th in his first race, stay out

of trouble, I was amazed. I know the team was excited."

In comparison, reigning IndyCar and Indianapolis 500 champion Dario Franchitti fell off the pace early, went a lap down and finished 33rd. The other two open-wheelers in this rookie class, Jacques Villeneuve and Patrick Carpentier, failed to make the race and Villeneuve, a former Formula One world champion, may already be done with NASCAR. He's been replaced in his Bill Davis Racing ride this week and his future remains unclear.

Now Hornish heads to California, where he has the luxury of knowing he's locked into the field. Penske took the points that Busch earned last year and moved them to Hornish's No. 77 ride to guarantee Hornish a spot in the first five races of this season.

As a former series champion, Busch has six provisionals he can rely on should he fail to qualify for a race on speed — and he actually had to use one to get into the Daytona 500 when a mechanical problem knocked him out of his qualifying race.

Hornish is grateful for the gesture, and eager to do everything he can to help his teammates.

"Roger and Kurt and Ryan — all those guys have been great to me. I just try and do what I can to make this overall team better. We actually got a little bit of interaction in Victory Lane with everybody. I was just so excited that Penske Racing and Ryan were able to make it to Victory Lane at the Daytona 500.

"It was an awesome feeling. Everybody told me what a good job that I did."

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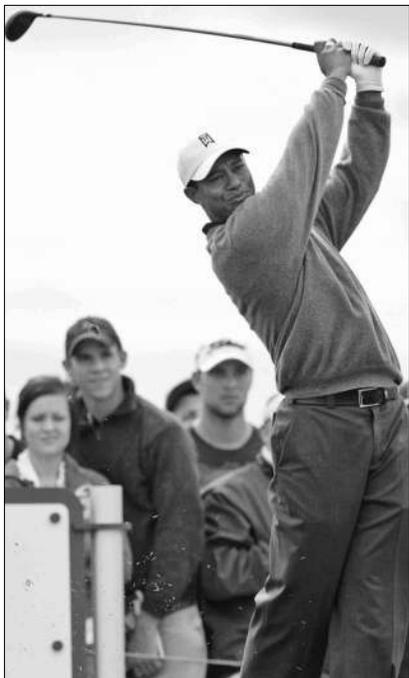
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MATT YORK/AP

Tiger Woods hits from the 15th tee during the third round of the Accenture Match Play on Friday at The Gallery Golf Club at Dove Mountain in Marana, Ariz. Woods won to advance to the quarterfinals.

# Woods outlasts Baddeley to reach quarterfinals

## Choi beats Casey, earns shot at Tiger

BY DOUG FERGUSON  
The Associated Press

MARANA, Ariz. — Tiger Woods made 12 birdies in 20 holes and needed every one of them Friday in a brilliant duel with Aaron Baddeley that sent the world's No. 1 player into the quarterfinals of the Accenture Match Play Championship.

Rarely has Woods played at such a high level, only to have another player match him step for step, birdie for birdie.

Baddeley, who shot 80 in the final round of the U.S. Open the last he played alone with Woods, was 1 up with three holes to play and twice had putts to end the match. A tough, 10-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole broke sharply below the hole, and his 12-foot eagle putt on the 19th hole burned the left edge of the cup, giving Woods new life.

Woods' final birdie was from 13 feet, and it was good all the way. He removed his cap when the ball was still a foot away from dropping, and he looked relieved after winning his longest match in his nine years at this tense tournament.

"It was quality shot after quality shot," Woods said.

"Matches like that are fun to be a part of."

Baddeley was runner-up to Woods in the BMW Championship during the playoffs in September, the first of four straight official victories for Woods. The Australian made 10 birdies, including five in a row to start the back nine, one of them conceded from 12 feet when Woods' tee shot plunked a marsh on the head and went into the sagebrush of the Dove Mountain desert.

What he needed was an eagle on the 19th hole. Instead, he became the latest victim to Woods, who has twice produced late rallies in his bid to continue a streak of victories dating to early September.

"I played great, you know?" Baddeley said. "I made him have to win it."

Woods advanced to the quarterfinals for the sixth time in nine years. He will face K.J. Choi, a 1-up winner over Paul Casey.

Typical of this tournament, those two matches could not have been any more different.

Choi birdied the first three holes to build a big lead and was 3-up through seven holes after

making an eagle. But he closed with 11 straight pars to start Casey.

The Americans, who ousted the tournament with a record-low 20 players, now have one player still remaining in each of the four brackets.

Woody Austin easily handed Boo Weekley, 3 and 2, to advance to play defending champion Henrik Stenson, who hung on to beat Jonathan Byrd. Stenson won his ninth straight match, the third-longest streak in the Match Play Championship.

Stewart Cink took advantage of sloppy play by Colin Montgomerie to deny the Scot valuable world ranking points, winning 4 and 2.

Cink will play U.S. Open champion Angel Cabrera, who made six birdies on the front nine and beat Steve Stricker, 4 and 3.

Justin Leonard reached the quarterfinals for the first time and joined Cabrera as the only players to have not played the 18th hole after three rounds. Leonard dispatched of Stuart Appleby, 3 and 2, after running off five straight birdies at the turn.

Leonard will face the winner of the Vijay Singh-Rod Pampling match, which was all square through 19 holes.

# Wie gets off to strong start; Jang leads in Hawaii

The Associated Press

KAPOLEI, Hawaii — Michelle Wie got off to a promising start in her first tournament round of the year, shooting a 3-under 69 in the Fields Open, five strokes behind first-round leader Jeong Jang.

Showing no signs of the wrist injuries that plagued her last year, Wie broke 70 for the first time since the Evian Ladies Masters in July 2006, a tournament in which she tied for second and earned her largest LPGA Tour check.



Jang, the 2005 British Open champion, opened with an 8-under 64, making nine birdies in a spectacular 16-hole stretch. Paula Creamer shot a 66, birdieing the last three holes for a 5-under 31 on the back nine.

Annika Sorenstam, trying to complete a Hawaiian sweep after

winning the season-opening SBS Open at Turtle Bay last week for her 70th LPGA Tour title, opened with a 70.

The 18-year-old Wie looked relaxed and confident playing on her home island of Oahu in front of a familiar gallery that ballooned as she moved up the leaderboard.

She demonstrated a solid short game and was still a little shaky off the tees.

**Champions Tour:** At Playa Del

Carmen, Mexico, John Merrick holed a 50-foot putt on his final hole for a 6-under 64 and a one-stroke lead in the Mayakoba Golf Classic, while course designer Greg Norman opened with a 70 at El Camaleon.

The 53-year-old Norman dropped two strokes on the 16th hole when he needed three shots to escape a greenside bunker, then three-putted for a bogey on the next hole.

Larry Mize, Robert Damron,

David Lutterus and Kenneth Ferrie shot 65s, and John Daly, Brian Gay and Tommy Gainey had 66s.

**Nationwide/Australasian:** At Fingal, Australia, Australia's Ewan Porter shot a 5-under 67 in windy conditions to take a one-stroke lead over American Fran Quinn in the Moonah Classic.

Argentina's Fabian Gomez and American Chris Kirk opened with 69s in the event sanctioned by the Nationwide and Australasian tours.

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# No word on Sampson as IU mulls violations

## Some players skip practice run by likely replacement

BY MICHAEL MAROT  
The Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — The fate of Indiana coach Kelvin Sampson remained a mystery Friday afternoon, although signs of a coaching switch were evident during the team's practice.

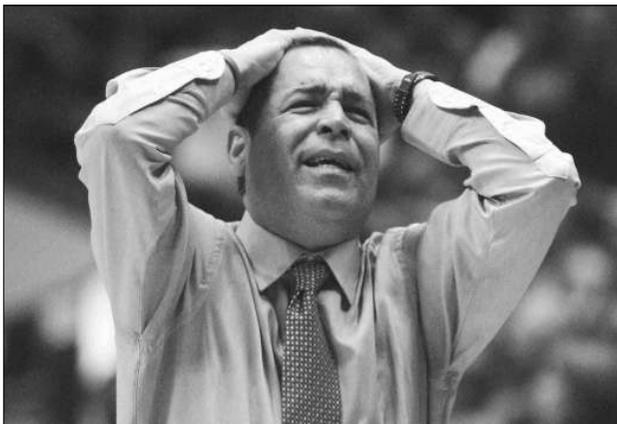
Assistant coach Dan Dakich, who has been mentioned as an interim coach, directed the workout but was short-handed. Senior captain D.J. White, Armon Bassett, Jordan Crawford, Jamarcus Ellis, DeAndre Thomas and Brandon McGee were not on the court.

Asked the possibility players had threatened not to play if Sampson weren't coaching. White told Indianapolis station WTHR: "I will not say it's not true."

The university was expected to announce whether Sampson would keep his job after an investigation that concluded he committed five major NCAA recruiting violations. Officials, however, offered no timetable.

Athletic director Rick Greenspan met briefly with Sampson on Friday morning. A few minutes after Greenspan left the coach's office, Sampson walked down a ramp with his wife, Karen. Players, managers, assistant coaches and the coach's son, Kellen Sampson, then gathered in the locker room for what appeared to be a team meeting. No one would comment to reporters. The meeting broke up about midday.

Later, star freshman guard



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

**Indiana coach Kevin Sampson, reacting to a call during a victory over Purdue on Tuesday, may already know what action the university will take as it answers NCAA allegations of major rules violations by the coach.**

Eric Gordon was on his way to practice and said players had not been told of any decision regarding Sampson. The No. 15 Hoosiers visit Northwestern on Saturday, and Gordon said he expected to play.

IU trustee Philip Eskew Jr. said he had lunch with university president Michael McRobbie, and said the president indicated that he hoped the situation with Sampson could be resolved in a positive way. McRobbie was at IUPIU on Friday for a visit by the Chinese ambassador to the United States.

"But you have to do what's right for those kids," Eskew said in a telephone interview.

Trustee Patrick Shivers acknowledged the frustration of those awaiting a decision.

"There's obviously some loose ends," Shivers said. "It's crazy, but I think it will all get taken care of today (Friday)."

Late into Thursday night, university officials discussed what to do about allegations Sampson made improper phone calls to high school players, then provided false and misleading information to investigators from the university and the NCAA. The Hoosiers have not been guilty of a major NCAA infraction since 1960.

Players also met Thursday with Greenspan, but left as a group without commenting. Greenspan remained in his office late into the night, and his family brought him a pillow. The decision on Sampson's future rests with Greenspan.

Last week the school released the NCAA's report alleging Sampson also failed to promote a high standard of honesty and an atmosphere of rules compliance in the program.

Sampson has said he didn't intentionally provide false or misleading information to NCAA investigators.

With speculation about Sampson's future sweeping the campus, the images rekindled scenes reminiscent to the prelude and aftermath of Bob Knight's firing in 2000. Reporters spent hours staking out the hallway of the administration building and the lobby of Assembly Hall, waiting for word on whether Sampson would still have his job this weekend.

According to the contract signed in April 2006, Indiana

pays Sampson an annual base salary of \$500,000. The contract runs through the next five seasons.

Sampson's deal includes termination clauses for violations of university or NCAA rules that eliminate the payments, but two Indianapolis lawyers have told The Associated Press that firing Sampson now could still force the school to pay at least \$2.5 million or face a potential lawsuit.

The second-year coach came under scrutiny for his newest round of alleged NCAA infractions in October when an internal investigation found Sampson and some of his staff made more than 100 impermissible recruiting calls. Most of the calls were made by assistant coach Rob Senderoff, who has since resigned. At least 10 were allegedly three-way calls that Sampson had been patched into, a violation of NCAA restrictions imposed on Sampson for previous telephone improprieties while he was coach at Oklahoma.

Indiana termed those calls secondary violations, but the NCAA used the term "major" when it accused Sampson of lying.

If Sampson isn't coaching Saturday, the likely successor for the rest of this season is Dakich, a 45-year-old former Indiana player and assistant coach and former head coach at Bowling Green who was once considered a possible successor to Knight. Dakich took Senderoff's spot on the coaching staff in early November, before any of the alleged rules infractions.

The university has until May 8 to respond to the NCAA, and a hearing has been set for June 14 in Seattle. A decision is expected sometime in July.

Proven major violations come with penalties that can include exclusion from postseason tournaments.

"I fully understand the desire for us, by many people, to move quickly in bringing this situation to resolution," McRobbie said. "We intend to do just that."

# No. 6 UCLA makes quick work of Oregon State

The Associated Press

UCLA got a victory and some rest.

The sixth-ranked Bruins dominated Oregon State from the start Thursday night and beat the Beavers 84-49 in a game in which coach Ben Howland was able to go to his bench early.

"It's always good to get a rest, especially coming down the stretch," said Bruins guard Nick Collison, who had 14 points and nine assists. Freshman Kevin Love had 11 points and nine rebounds in 21 minutes for the Bruins (23-3, 11-2 Pac-10).

"That'll keep me with fresh legs for Saturday," Love said.

Love was looking ahead to the game with Oregon, his father Stan's alma mater, where their family was targeted with ugly treatment by Ducks fans in UCLA's 80-75 victory last month.



Love wasn't the only one looking ahead.

"We have a huge game on Saturday," Howland said. "Everyone is fighting now for NCAA tournament berths and seedings. We know Oregon is going to come in here and give us their very best game. They're right on the edge of making it or not."

Russell Westbrook scored 17 points for UCLA on a night no Bruin played 30 minutes. Howland went to his bench with 7 minutes left, giving rare time to freshman Chase Stanback and sophomores Nikola Dragovic and Mustafa Abdul-Hamid.

Josh Tarver scored 10 points for Oregon State (6-20, 0-14),

which lost its 16th in a row overall and seventh straight to the Bruins.

The Beavers barely surpassed their lowest point total of the season, 44 against Southern California on Jan. 24. They shot 34 percent, an opponent's season-low for the Bruins.

UCLA shot 55 percent from the field, after shooting no better than 34 percent in their previous two games, against Washington and USC.

They dominated the boards 43-24, went 15-of-19 from the free throw line and matched a season high with 20 assists to Oregon State's six.

UCLA took a 10-4 lead, helped by Collison's three-pointer and five straight points to Love.

"They got away really fast," Oregon State interim coach Kevin Mouton said. "I would not be sur-

prised if they make it back to the Final Four."

The Beavers got within one on a three-pointer by Omari Johnson before UCLA ran off 14 consecutive points for a 24-9 lead.

"There were a couple times where we lost focus and they got a couple easy baskets," Collison said. "We can't afford that."

**No. 10 Xavier 75, Duquesne 48:** Derrick Brown had 13 points and 11 rebounds and C.J. Anderson had 13 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Musketeers (23-4, 11-1 Atlantic 10) to their ninth straight victory. B.J. Raymond scored his 13 points in the first half as Xavier took a 45-26 lead.

Reggie Jackson had 12 points for the visiting Dukes (16-9, 6-6), who hadn't scored fewer than 59 points in a game this season.

**No. 17 Washington St. 59, Ari-**

**zona St. 47:** Derrick Low scored 15 points and the Cougars (21-5, 9-5 Pac-10) won their fourth straight by holding Arizona State 21 points below its season scoring average.

Freshman James Harden, who averages 18 points per game, had 10 to lead the visiting Sun Devils (16-9, 6-7), who shot 33 percent, including 6-of-25 from three-point range.

**No. 21 Notre Dame 82, Pittsburgh 70:** Luke Harangody had 23 points and 12 rebounds and Tory Jackson added 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Fighting Irish (20-5, 10-3 Big East), who rallied from an 11-point deficit with just under 14 minutes left to win their 35th straight home game, three shy of the school record.

Sony Young had 20 points for the Panthers (19-7, 7-6), who lost two straight for the first time since December 2006.

# Islanders win sixth straight, jump back into playoff hunt

The Associated Press

Chris Simon returned to Long Island after a long absence. Hope, however, had returned some time ago to the New York Islanders.

Rick DiPietro stopped 32 shots to help the Islanders win their sixth straight with a 1-0 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning on Thursday night.

"The big thing is we wanted to get back to playing smart hockey and the kind of hockey we are successful with," DiPietro said. "Just when everyone had us written off and it looks like we aren't going to be able to compete anymore, we find a way to win."

DiPietro posted his third shut-out of the season, first in 40 games, and 14th of his career. He has allowed 12 goals in the winning streak that has brought New York back into the Eastern Conference's playoff race.

Ever since the Islanders broke a seven-game skid on Feb. 12 with a victory against Philadelphia, they have been unstoppable. New York is enjoying its best stretch since another six-game winning streak from Dec. 21-31, 2003, and has climbed back into the Eastern Conference playoff chase.

The Islanders are in ninth place behind the three teams in front of them by just one point. Simon returned from a record 30-game suspension levied by the NHL against him in December for his skate stomp on the back of the leg of Pittsburgh's Jarrokk Runtu.

Jim took his first shift 2½ minutes into the opening period, alongside rookies Blake Comeau and Frans Nielsen on the Islanders' fourth line, and heard a few cheers and louder boos when he hit the ice and touched the puck.

"The most important thing is that we won," he said. "My teammates have been so supportive and have been great to me. I can't control what other people think and how they react. I respect that they have their opinion, and I'm just going to keep working hard in gaining them back."

Miroslav Satan broke the scoreless 5:37 into the third period. It was all DiPietro needed to end the Lightning's 10-game road run of earning at least one point (7-0-3). He blanketed Tampa Bay for the second time this season despite New York's injured defensemen Brendan Witt, Andy Sutton, Bruno Gervais and Chris Campoli.

**Sabres 5, Maple Leafs 1:** Ales Kotlák scored two goals to help visiting Buffalo win for the 10th time in 14 games.

Chris Campbell, Jaroslav Spacek and Derek Roy also scored for the Sabres, who are on a 10-2-2 run and moved into a tie with the New York Rangers for sixth place in the East.

Evgeny Khabibulin scored for the Leafs, who are eight points out of a playoff spot and seem unlikely to qualify.



FRANK FRANKLIN/MAP

**Tampa Bay's Vincent Lecavalier (4) fights for the puck against the New York Islanders' Freddy Meyer (44) during the first period of Thursday's game in Uniondale, N.Y. The Islanders won the game 1-0.**

**Sharks 3, Flyers 1:** Douglas Murray and Milan Michalek scored goals 42 seconds apart early in the third period to help San Jose send host Philadelphia to its ninth straight loss.

Jonathan Cheechoo scored his 17th goal for the Sharks, who snapped a five-game losing streak. Evgeni Nabokov made 26 saves.

Mike Knuble scored his 22nd goal for the slumping Flyers.

**Penguins 5, Canadiens 4:** Evgeni Malkin scored his 35th goal midway through the third period and got his second assist of the game on Sergei Gonchar's power-play goal moments later to lift visiting Pittsburgh.

Malkin, who assisted on Ryan Whitney's goal 6:46 in to become the first player to reach 80 points this season, scored on a breakaway 10:22 into the third to tie it after Pittsburgh—which led 2-0 and 3-1—blew a two-goal margin to fall behind 4-3.

Gonchar restored the Penguins' lead with his 10th goal at 10:58, past Cristobal Huet for Pittsburgh's second power-play goal of the game.

**Kings 5, Blues 1:** At Los Angeles, Alexander Frolov scored three goals and Patrick O'Sullivan had a goal and four assists.

Anze Kopitar broke open a scoreless tie in the second period with a power-play goal, triggering a four-goal barrage that chased former Kings goaltender Manny Legace.

Dan Cloutier made 31 saves in his third start of the season for the Kings.

**Hurricanes 5, Thrashers 3:** Scott Walker had a goal and two assists for host Carolina, which won its fourth game in a row for the Thrashers. Jason Arnott and Marek Zidlicky scored in regulation for the Predators.

coin also scored for the Hurricanes. Cam Ward made 25 saves. The Hurricanes extended their division lead to four points over the second-place Washington Capitals and five over the third-place Thrashers.

Eric Perrin, Mark Recchi and Todd White scored for Atlanta.

**Blue Jackets 3, Senators 2 (SO):** Rick Nash scored in regulation and in a shootout for visiting Columbus.

Pascal Leclaire stopped Daniel Alfredsson and Antoine Vermette in the shootout after Columbus came back from a goal down in the third period.

Nash and Nikolai Zherdev were successful against Ray Emery.

**Bruins 5, Panthers 4 (SO):** Marco Sturm scored the only goal of the shootout after Boston rallied from a two-goal, third-period deficit.

Bruins goalie Alex Auld replaced starter Tim Thomas after the second period and stopped Steve Montador, Nathan Horton and Olli Jokinen in the shootout. Sturm, Dennis Wideman, Zdeno Chara and Phil Kessel scored in regulation for the Bruins, who are 5-0-1 in their past six road games.

Jay Bouwmeester, Montador, Rostislav Levinskii and Kamil Krepis scored for the Panthers, who have lost three in a row and five of six.

**Canucks 3, Predators 2 (SO):** Mason Raymond scored two goals, including one in a shootout, and assisted on another for visiting Vancouver.

It was the second overtime game in a row for the Canucks. It was the third overtime game in the last four for the Predators and their fourth game in a row to be decided by one goal.

## NHL scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division					
Team	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
New Jersey	32	15	5	75	164/165
Pittsburgh	35	21	8	75	182/165
N.Y. Rangers	29	24	8	68	157/157
N.Y. Islanders	39	25	7	67	154/176
Philadelphia	29	25	6	66	187/177
Northwest Division					
Team	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Ottawa	35	20	6	76	206/180
Montreal	20	29	7	55	176/177
Boston	31	23	6	68	160/164
Buffalo	30	23	8	68	182/170
Toronto	29	29	7	67	187/177
Southeast Division					
Team	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Carolina	24	26	6	67	188/204
Washington	28	26	7	63	173/188
Atlanta	29	29	4	62	168/200
Florida	27	29	7	61	173/183
Tampa Bay	25	29	7	57	174/198

### Western Conference

Central Division					
Team	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Detroit	42	15	5	89	159/136
Nashville	32	23	8	72	183/175
St. Louis	28	23	9	65	169/169
Columbus	25	28	6	62	153/166
Chicago	26	26	6	62	169/169
Northwest Division					
Team	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Minnesota	34	22	5	73	169/166
Calgary	32	28	8	70	177/177
Vancouver	25	28	8	70	183/183
Colorado	30	25	6	66	167/169
Edmonton	27	29	5	59	169/159
Pacific Division					
Team	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Dallas	32	22	5	79	188/158
Anaheim	31	27	7	75	159/159
San Jose	32	21	8	72	159/150
Phoenix	21	26	4	66	168/168
Los Angeles	26	34	5	55	181/206

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss or shootout loss.

**Thursday's games**  
 Carolina 5, Atlanta 3  
 San Jose 3, Philadelphia 1  
 N.Y. Islanders 1, Tampa Bay 0  
 Buffalo 5, Toronto 1  
 Pittsburgh 5, Montreal 4  
 Boston 5, Florida 4, SO  
 Columbus 3, Ottawa 2, SO  
 Vancouver 3, Nashville 2, SO  
 Los Angeles 5, St. Louis 1

**Friday's games**  
 Edmonton at Phoenix  
 Colorado at Anaheim  
 Detroit at Chicago  
 St. Louis at Anaheim

**Saturday's games**  
 N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey  
 Ottawa at Pittsburgh  
 Chicago at Los Angeles  
 Washington at Carolina  
 N.Y. Rangers at Buffalo  
 Florida at Toronto  
 Florida at Philadelphia  
 Columbus at Montreal  
 Dallas at Nashville  
 Detroit at Chicago  
 Dallas at Nashville

**Sunday's games**  
 Calgary at Minnesota  
 San Jose at Pittsburgh  
 New Jersey at Washington  
 Florida at N.Y. Rangers  
 Chicago at Anaheim  
 St. Louis at Phoenix  
 Detroit at Edmonton

**Thursday**  
**Islanders 1, Lightning 0**

**Tampa Bay** 0 0 0=0  
**N.Y. Islanders** 0 0 0=1  
**First Period**—1, N.Y. Islanders, Satan 14 (Berghern, Fato); 3-0  
**Shots on Goal**—Tampa Bay 7-11-14; Florida 11-11-27

**Power-play opportunities**—Tampa Bay 0 of 2; N.Y. Islanders 0 of 4.  
**Penalty minutes**—Ramon 4-9; 28 (saves). N.Y. Islanders, DiPietro 1-11-27.

A-12,382 (162,324) - 7-21-6.

**Sharks 3, Flyers 1**

**San Jose** 1 0 2-3  
**Philadelphia** 0 1 0=1  
**First Period**—1, San Jose, Cheechoo 17 (Thornton, Vasic); 15-6.  
**Second Period**—2, Philadelphia, Knuble 22 (Rucinski, Fato); 22-12.  
**Third Period**—3, San Jose, Michalek 20 (Thornton, Vasic); 22-12. 4, San Jose, Murray 1 (Pavelski, Bernier); 4:17.  
**Shots on Goal**—San Jose 17-12-11=40; Philadelphia 11-17-27.  
**Power-play opportunities**—San Jose 5 of 7; Philadelphia 3 of 5.  
**Penalty minutes**—San Jose 5 of 27 (27 shots saves), Philadelphia, Baron 20-26-5 (40-37).  
 A-19,487 (19,523) - 7-21-8.

**Hurricanes 5, Thrashers 3**

**Atlanta** 0 2 1-3  
**Los Angeles** 0 2 1=3  
**Second Period**—1, Carolina, Whitner 25 (Staa), 2:08. 2, Atlanta, Perrin 11 (Hossa, Koo, Koo), 4:28. 3, Carolina, Hamill 11 (Hossa, Koo), 4:59. 4, Carolina, Samsonov 7 (Kabrnick, Letowski), 12:25. 5, Atlanta, Recchi 11 (Koo, Koo), 15:53. 6, Carolina, Walker 11 (Pavelski, Bernier); 4:17.  
**Shots on Goal**—Atlanta 16-17-28. Carolina 21-15-40=44.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Atlanta 1 of 2; Carolina 0 of 4.  
**Penalty minutes**—Lehtonen 13-16-2 (46 shots-41 saves), Carolina, Ward 25-20-4 (45-25).  
 A-13,548 (18,730) - 7-20-2.

### Sabres 5, Maple Leafs 1

**Buffalo** 1 3 1=5  
**Toronto** 2 3 1=5  
**First Period**—1, Buffalo, Campbell 5 (Snack, Mail), 2:36.  
**Second Period**—3, Buffalo, Vanek 26 (Snack, Campbell), 15:01 (pp.). 3, Toronto, Kunitz 8 (Khabibulin, Frolow), 18:01 (pp.). 4, Buffalo, Kotlák 15 (Vanek, Lydman), 8:59. 5, Buffalo, Roy 22 (Vanek, Pominville), 14:40 (pp.).  
**Third Period**—4, Buffalo, Kunitz 16 (Gauszka), 19:07 (pp.).  
**Shots on Goal**—Buffalo 9-10-4=23; Toronto 14-8-13=35.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Buffalo 2 of 2; Toronto 1 of 5.  
**Penalty minutes**—Miller 28-19-6 (35 shots-24 saves), Toronto, Tokos 18-19-5 (22-18).  
 A-10,687 (18,819) - 7-21-1.

### Penguins 5, Canadiens 4

**Pittsburgh** 2 3 1=5  
**Montreal** 1 2 2=5  
**First Period**—1, Pittsburgh, Whitney 12 (Malkin, Sylvain), 6:46. 2, Pittsburgh, Runtu 2, 18:47.  
**Second Period**—3, Montreal, Kivu 12 (Kotlák, O'Brien), 3:27. 4, Pittsburgh, Malone 20 (Whitney, Sylvain), 6:59 (pp.). 5, Montreal, Higgins 19 (Kovalchuk, Markov), 18:07 (pp.).  
**Third Period**—5, Montreal, Ryder 12 (Streit, Gortch), 2:31. 6, Montreal, Kivu 14 (Kovalchuk), 3:25 (pp.). 8, Pittsburgh, Malkin 35 (Vidale), 10:22. 9, Pittsburgh, Gonchar 10 (Whitney, Malkin), 15:58 (pp.).  
**Shots on Goal**—Pittsburgh 15-8=23; Montreal 5-7=12.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Pittsburgh 2 of 4; Montreal 1 of 5.  
**Penalty minutes**—Pittsburgh, Sabourin 10-9-21 (21 shots-24 saves), Montreal, Huet 21-12-6 (30-25).  
 A-21,273 (21,273) - 7-21-8.

### Blue Jackets 3, Senators 2 (SO)

**Columbus** 0 1 1=0  
**Ottawa** 0 1 0=2  
**Columbus won shootout 2-0**  
**First Period**—1, Ottawa, Stillman 22 (Vermette, Kovalchuk), 10:22.  
**Second Period**—2, Columbus, Nash 32 (Mottin), 4:07. 3, Ottawa, Zherdev 9 (Vermette, Heatley), 11:28 (pp.).  
**Third Period**—4, Columbus, Fedorov 9 (Bruck, Zherdev), 5:28.  
**Shootout**—Columbus 2 (Nash & Zherdev) 2-0; Ottawa 0 (Vermette, Heatley).  
**Shots on Goal**—Columbus 8-3-11=24; Ottawa 16-8-14=24.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Columbus 0 of 1; Ottawa 0 of 2.  
**Penalty minutes**—Columbus, Leclair 21-13-4 (29-27 saves), Ottawa, Emery 11-10-4 (22-22).  
 A-19,612 (19,153) - 7-23-4.

### Bruins 5, Panthers 4 (SO)

**Boston** 0 2 2=0  
**Florida** 0 2 0=4  
**Boston won shootout 1-0**  
**First Period**—1, Florida, Bouwmeister 11 (Brien, Krepis), 2:40.  
**Second Period**—2, Boston, Sturm 20 (Kobayashi, Krepis), 2:40. 3, Florida, Olesz 10 (Montador, Sale), 12:11. 5, Boston, Wideman 9 (Savard, Sturm), 16:13 (pp.). 6, Florida, Krepis 6 (Brooten), 19:55.  
**Third Period**—2, Boston, Chara 12 (Sturm, Savard), 13:10 (pp.). 3, Boston, Kessel 15 (Krejci, Chara), 18:01 (pp.).  
**Shootout**—Boston 1 (Sturm & Kessel) 1-0; Florida 0 (Montador) 0-1.  
**Shots on Goal**—Boston 11-19-35=48; Florida 10-20-38.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Boston 2 of 5; Florida 0 of 4.  
**Penalty minutes**—Boston, Thomas 12 (shots-8 saves), Ull 10-12-1 (20-30) (shots-15), Florida, Vokonas 10-12-1 (20-30) (shots-15).  
 A-14,992 (19,250) - 7-25-1.

### Canucks 3, Predators 2 (SO)

**Vancouver** 1 1 0=0  
**Nashville** 1 1 0=0  
**First Period**—1, Vancouver, Raymond 6 (Shanahan, Arnott), 12:49 (pp.).  
**Second Period**—2, Nashville, Arnott 22 (Dunlop, Arnott), 5:42 (pp.). 3, Vancouver, Edler 8 (Raymond, Shanahan), 12:49 (pp.).  
**Third Period**—2, Nashville, Zidlicky 5 (Lehmann, Arnott), 12:49 (pp.).  
**Shootout**—Vancouver 1 (Raymond & Shanahan) 1-0; Nashville 0 (Dunlop) 0-0.  
**Shots on Goal**—Vancouver 11-7-9=30; Nashville 17-12-16=51.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Vancouver 1 of 4; Nashville 0 of 3.  
**Penalty minutes**—Vancouver, Luongo 27-18-7 (61 shots-34 saves), Nashville, Mason 17-18-6 (30-28).  
 A-17,113 (17,113) - 7-25-2.

### Kings 5, Blues 1

**St. Louis** 0 0 1=1  
**Los Angeles** 0 4 1=5  
**Second Period**—1, Los Angeles, Kopitar 26 (Crosby, Arnott), 5:42 (pp.). 2, Vancouver, Edler 8 (Raymond, Shanahan), 12:49 (pp.).  
**Third Period**—5, Los Angeles, Frolow 18 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 6, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 7, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 8, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 9, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 10, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 11, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 12, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 13, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 14, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 15, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 16, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 17, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 18, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 19, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 20, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 21, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 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Campbell), 12:25. 91, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 92, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 93, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 94, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 95, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 96, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 97, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:25. 98, Los Angeles, Frolow 19 (O'Sullivan, Campbell), 12:2





NAM Y. HUN/AP



KEVIN P. CASEY/AP

Ben Wallace (3) should give the Cleveland Cavaliers a much-needed defensive presence in the middle.

Wally Szczerbiak averaged 13.1 points a game in a reserve role for the Seattle SuperSonics.

# LeBron asks, receives

## In response to star's plea, Cavs acquire Wallace, Szczerbiak in three-way trade

BY TOM WITHERS  
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Cleveland Cavaliers general manager Danny Ferry rattled off all kinds of reasons for making the colossal trade.

It makes Cleveland tougher. It fills some holes. It makes the Cavs bigger. It gives them more experience. It will make a difference in the playoffs.

Ferry left out the most important one: It should make LeBron James happy.

On Thursday, with one minute to spare before the NBA's trading deadline expired, Ferry dismantled his team with less than 50 games remaining in a season he hopes will end with an NBA title.

In a complex, 11-player swap involving Cleveland, Chicago and Seattle, Ferry dealt him his active roster to acquire center Ben Wallace and forward Joe Smith from the Bulls, and forward Wally Szczerbiak and guard Delonte West from the SuperSonics.

James wants to win a championship, "and after seeing other teams land big-name players via trades in recent weeks, the All-Star Game MVP made it clear he needed help. Ferry heard his cry."

"I didn't think we were good enough to win the championship," Ferry said, explaining his motives for the moves.

"I thought we had a very good team. But I do believe if we have a chance to make ourselves better we should try."

"Was it a risk in doing so? Yes, it was a risk. But we're going to have to make some decisions that have some risk in them if we want

### Thursday's trade-deadline deals

**CHICAGO BULLS** — Traded G Adrian Griffin to the Seattle SuperSonics as part of a three-team trade including the Cleveland Cavaliers.

**CLEVELAND CAVALIERS** — Traded G Larry Hughes, F Drew Gooden, F Cedric Simmons and G Shannon Brown to the Chicago Bulls and F Ira Newble and F Donyell Marshall to the Seattle SuperSonics. Acquired G Ben Wallace, F Joe Smith and a 2009 second-round draft pick from Chicago, and F Wally Szczerbiak and G Delonte West from Seattle.

**HOUSTON ROCKETS** — Traded F G Bonzi Wells, G Mike James, cash and a conditional second-round draft pick to the New Orleans Hornets for G Bobby Jackson, G Adam Haluska, F Marcus Vinicius and a conditional second-round draft pick. Traded Vince Carter, the rights to Malik Badiane and cash to the Memphis Grizzlies for the rights to F Serge Lussibou.

**PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS** — Traded G LaShawn Trent to the Denver Nuggets for F J.J. Redick.

**TORONTO RAPTORS** — Traded G Juan Dixon and cash to the Detroit Pistons for G Primoz Brezec.

The Associated Press

to continue to build and grow as an organization."

Unable to finalize major deals in the past, Ferry pulled off one that could define his tenure just before the 3 p.m. buzzer. He sent guard Larry Hughes, forwards Drew Gooden and Cedric Simmons, and guard Shannon Brown to Chicago for Wallace, one of the game's top inside enforcers, and Smith, a versatile veteran.

Cleveland also acquired the sharpshooting Szczerbiak and West from Seattle for forwards Ira Newble and Donyell Marshall, two expendable parts. In addition, the Cavs will get Chicago's second-round pick in 2009. The Sonics will receive guard Adrian Griffin from the Bulls.

While giving the Cavaliers a new core to surround James,

Ferry didn't hurt his team's long-term salary cap flexibility. He did create one short-term problem, however. Because their new players have to take physicals, the injury-plagued Cavs ran the risk of being very short-handed for Friday night's game against the Washington Wizards.

"I think Mike Brown might be a player/coach," Ferry joked.

He's dead serious, though, about getting the Cavaliers their first title. James, who led them to their first NBA Finals appearance last season, had publicly campaigned for Ferry to do something before the deadline.

James got his wish. Ferry overhauled the Cavs, trading 60 percent of the starting lineup Brown used Wednesday night.

In the 33-year-old Wallace, the Cavs are getting a defensive intimidator. Big Ben will give them next to nothing on offense, but that's not what the defending Eastern Conference champs need.

Wallace was a major disappointment for the underachieving Bulls, who are 17½ games out of first in the Central. Chicago signed Wallace to a four-year, \$60 million contract in 2006.

Szczerbiak, who was part of the draft day trade that sent Ray Allen to Boston for the No. 5 pick — Jeff Green — and West, added scoring punch in a reserve role for the rebuilding Sonics.

He averaged 13.1 points, second behind rookie Kevin Durant, and consistently showed he was fully recovered from offseason ankle surgery. In his final game with Seattle on Tuesday, Szczerbiak scored 24 points, including the go-ahead basket with 31 seconds remaining in a victory over the Memphis Grizzlies.

## NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference				Western Conference				
Atlantic Division				Southwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Boston	41	11	788	New Orleans	37	15	712	
Philadelphia	29	23	558	San Antonio	37	17	679	
New York	24	30	444	Dallas	35	19	648	
Orlando	24	31	436	Memphis	34	20	630	
New York	16	38	296	Utah	31	23	574	
Southeast Division				Northwest Division				
Orlando	34	22	607	Utah	35	19	648	
Washington	30	26	472	Denver	33	23	623	
Atlanta	21	30	412	Portland	31	25	594	
Charlotte	19	32	382	Seattle	14	40	259	
Miami	9	43	173	Minnesota	11	42	208	
Central Division				Pacific Division				
Detroit	39	15	722	L.A. Lakers	37	17	685	
Cleveland	30	24	556	Golden State	33	21	611	
Chicago	31	32	506	Sacramento	25	28	427	
Indiana	21	33	389	L.A. Clippers	25	29	471	
Milwaukee	20	34	389	Thursday's games				
Western Conference				Houston 112, Miami 100	Seattle 99, San Antonio 100			
Southwest Division				Portland 92, Seattle 88	Philadelphia at Orlando			
New Orleans	37	15	712	Utah at N.J.	Sacramento at Charlotte			
San Antonio	37	17	679	Toronto at Chicago	Denver at Chicago			
Dallas	35	19	648	Denver at Memphis	Milwaukee at Detroit			
Memphis	34	20	630	Houston at New Orleans	Washington at Cleveland			
Utah	31	23	574	Boston at Phoenix	Utah at L.A. Clippers			
Denver	33	23	623	Atlanta at Golden State	Portland at Seattle			
Portland	31	25	594	Charlotte at Washington	Indiana at New Jersey			
Seattle	14	40	259	Philadelphia at Miami	New Orleans at San Antonio			
Minnesota	11	42	208	L.A. Clippers at San Antonio	Atlanta at Utah			
Northwest Division				Saturday's games				
Utah	35	19	648	Detroit at Phoenix	Sacramento at Orlando			
Denver	33	23	623	Boston at Portland	New York at Toronto			
Portland	31	25	594	Memphis at Cleveland	Dallas at Houston			
Seattle	14	40	259	Chicago at Houston	L.A. Lakers at Seattle			
Minnesota	11	42	208	Thursday's games				
Pacific Division				Miami 102, San Antonio 99				
L.A. Lakers	37	17	685	Portland 92, Seattle 88				
Golden State	33	21	611	Philadelphia at Orlando				
Sacramento	25	28	427	Utah at N.J.				
L.A. Clippers	25	29	471	Sacramento at Charlotte				
Thursday's games				Toronto at Chicago				
Houston 112, Miami 100	Seattle 99, San Antonio 100				Denver at Chicago			
Portland 92, Seattle 88	Philadelphia at Orlando				Milwaukee at Detroit			
Utah at N.J.	Sacramento at Charlotte				Houston at New Orleans			
Denver at Memphis	Milwaukee at Detroit				Washington at Cleveland			
Houston at New Orleans	Boston at Phoenix				Utah at L.A. Clippers			
Washington at Cleveland	Atlanta at Golden State				Portland at Seattle			
Boston at Phoenix	Charlotte at Washington				Indiana at New Jersey			
Utah at N.J.	Philadelphia at Miami				New Orleans at San Antonio			
Atlanta at Golden State	L.A. Clippers at San Antonio				Atlanta at Utah			
Portland at Seattle	Friday's games				Sacramento at Orlando			
Charlotte at Washington	Detroit at Phoenix				Boston at Portland			
Indiana at New Jersey	Memphis at Cleveland				New York at Toronto			
Philadelphia at Miami	Chicago at Houston				Dallas at Houston			
New Orleans at San Antonio	L.A. Lakers at Seattle				Thursday's games			
Atlanta at Utah	Portland 92, Seattle 88				Miami 102, San Antonio 99			
Portland 92, Seattle 88	Philadelphia at Orlando				Portland 92, Seattle 88			
Utah at N.J.	Sacramento at Charlotte				Philadelphia at Orlando			
Denver at Memphis	Milwaukee at Detroit				Utah at N.J.			
Houston at New Orleans	Boston at Phoenix				Sacramento at Charlotte			
Washington at Cleveland	Atlanta at Golden State				Portland at Seattle			
Boston at Phoenix	Charlotte at Washington				Indiana at New Jersey			
Utah at N.J.	Philadelphia at Miami				New Orleans at San Antonio			
Atlanta at Golden State	L.A. Clippers at San Antonio				Atlanta at Utah			
Portland at Seattle	Friday's games				Sacramento at Orlando			
Charlotte at Washington	Detroit at Phoenix				Boston at Portland			
Indiana at New Jersey	Memphis at Cleveland				New York at Toronto			
Philadelphia at Miami	Chicago at Houston				Dallas at Houston			
New Orleans at San Antonio	L.A. Lakers at Seattle				Thursday's games			
Atlanta at Utah	Portland 92, Seattle 88				Miami 102, San Antonio 99			
Portland 92, Seattle 88	Philadelphia at Orlando				Portland 92, Seattle 88			
Utah at N.J.	Sacramento at Charlotte				Philadelphia at Orlando			
Denver at Memphis	Milwaukee at Detroit				Utah at N.J.			
Houston at New Orleans	Boston at Phoenix				Sacramento at Charlotte			
Washington at Cleveland	Atlanta at Golden State				Portland at Seattle			
Boston at Phoenix	Charlotte at Washington				Indiana at New Jersey			
Utah at N.J.	Philadelphia at Miami				New Orleans at San Antonio			
Atlanta at Golden State	L.A. Clippers at San Antonio				Atlanta at Utah			
Portland at Seattle	Friday's games				Sacramento at Orlando			
Charlotte at Washington	Detroit at Phoenix				Boston at Portland			
Indiana at New Jersey	Memphis at Cleveland				New York at Toronto			
Philadelphia at Miami	Chicago at Houston				Dallas at Houston			
New Orleans at San Antonio	L.A. Lakers at Seattle				Thursday's games			
Atlanta at Utah	Portland 92, Seattle 88				Miami 102, San Antonio 99			
Portland 92, Seattle 88	Philadelphia at Orlando				Portland 92, Seattle 88			
Utah at N.J.	Sacramento at Charlotte				Philadelphia at Orlando			
Denver at Memphis	Milwaukee at Detroit				Utah at N.J.			
Houston at New Orleans	Boston at Phoenix				Sacramento at Charlotte			
Washington at Cleveland	Atlanta at Golden State				Portland at Seattle			
Boston at Phoenix	Charlotte at Washington				Indiana at New Jersey			
Utah at N.J.	Philadelphia at Miami				New Orleans at San Antonio			
Atlanta at Golden State	L.A. Clippers at San Antonio				Atlanta at Utah			
Portland at Seattle	Friday's games				Sacramento at Orlando			
Charlotte at Washington	Detroit at Phoenix				Boston at Portland			
Indiana at New Jersey	Memphis at Cleveland				New York at Toronto			
Philadelphia at Miami	Chicago at Houston				Dallas at Houston			
New Orleans at San Antonio	L.A. Lakers at Seattle				Thursday's games			
Atlanta at Utah	Portland 92, Seattle 88				Miami 102, San Antonio 99			
Portland 92, Seattle 88	Philadelphia at Orlando				Portland 92, Seattle 88			
Utah at N.J.	Sacramento at Charlotte				Philadelphia at Orlando			
Denver at Memphis	Milwaukee at Detroit				Utah at N.J.			
Houston at New Orleans	Boston at Phoenix				Sacramento at Charlotte			
Washington at Cleveland	Atlanta at Golden State				Portland at Seattle			
Boston at Phoenix	Charlotte at Washington				Indiana at New Jersey			
Utah at N.J.	Philadelphia at Miami				New Orleans at San Antonio			
Atlanta at Golden State	L.A. Clippers at San Antonio				Atlanta at Utah			
Portland at Seattle	Friday's games				Sacramento at Orlando			
Charlotte at Washington	Detroit at Phoenix				Boston at Portland			
Indiana at New Jersey	Memphis at Cleveland				New York at Toronto			
Philadelphia at Miami	Chicago at Houston				Dallas at Houston			
New Orleans at San Antonio	L.A. Lakers at Seattle				Thursday's games			
Atlanta at Utah	Portland 92, Seattle 88				Miami 102, San Antonio 99			
Portland 92, Seattle 88	Philadelphia at Orlando				Portland 92, Seattle 88			
Utah at N.J.	Sacramento at Charlotte				Philadelphia at Orlando			
Denver at Memphis	Milwaukee at Detroit				Utah at N.J.			
Houston at New Orleans	Boston at Phoenix				Sacramento at Charlotte			
Washington at Cleveland	Atlanta at Golden State				Portland at Seattle			
Boston at Phoenix	Charlotte at Washington				Indiana at New Jersey			
Utah at N.J.	Philadelphia at Miami				New Orleans at San Antonio			
Atlanta at Golden State	L.A. Clippers at San Antonio				Atlanta at Utah			
Portland at Seattle	Friday's games				Sacramento at Orlando			
Charlotte at Washington	Detroit at Phoenix				Boston at Portland			
Indiana at New Jersey	Memphis at Cleveland				New York at Toronto			
Philadelphia at Miami	Chicago at Houston				Dallas at Houston			
New Orleans at San Antonio	L.A. Lakers at Seattle				Thursday's games			
Atlanta at Utah	Portland 92, Seattle 88				Miami 102, San Antonio 99			
Portland 92, Seattle 88	Philadelphia at Orlando				Portland 92, Seattle 88			
Utah at N.J.	Sacramento at Charlotte				Philadelphia at Orlando			
Denver at Memphis	Milwaukee at Detroit				Utah at N.J.			
Houston at New Orleans	Boston at Phoenix				Sacramento at Charlotte			
Washington at Cleveland	Atlanta at Golden State				Portland at Seattle			
Boston at Phoenix	Charlotte at Washington				Indiana at New Jersey			
Utah at N.J.	Philadelphia at Miami				New Orleans at San Antonio			
Atlanta at Golden State	L.A. Clippers at San Antonio				Atlanta at Utah			
Portland at Seattle	Friday's games				Sacramento at Orlando			
Charlotte at Washington	Detroit at Phoenix				Boston at Portland			
Indiana at New Jersey	Memphis at Cleveland				New York at Toronto			
Philadelphia at Miami	Chicago at Houston				Dallas at Houston			
New Orleans at San Antonio	L.A. Lakers at Seattle				Thursday's games			
Atlanta at Utah	Portland 92, Seattle 88				Miami 102, San Antonio 99			
Portland 92, Seattle 88	Philadelphia at Orlando				Portland 92, Seattle 88			
Utah at N.J.	Sacramento at Charlotte				Philadelphia at Orlando			
Denver at Memphis	Milwaukee at Detroit				Utah at N.J.			
Houston at New Orleans	Boston at Phoenix				Sacramento at Charlotte			
Washington at Cleveland	Atlanta at Golden State				Portland at Seattle			
Boston at Phoenix	Charlotte at Washington				Indiana at New Jersey			
Utah at N.J.	Philadelphia at Miami				New Orleans at San Antonio			
Atlanta at Golden State	L.A. Clippers at San Antonio				Atlanta at Utah			
Portland at Seattle	Friday's games				Sacramento at Orlando			
Charlotte at Washington	Detroit at Phoenix				Boston at Portland			
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Philadelphia at Miami	Chicago at Houston				Dallas at Houston			
New Orleans at San Antonio	L.A. Lakers at Seattle				Thursday's games			
Atlanta at Utah	Portland 92, Seattle 88				Miami 102, San Antonio 99			
Portland 92, Seattle 88	Philadelphia at Orlando				Portland 92, Seattle 88			
Utah at N.J.	Sacramento at Charlotte				Philadelphia at Orlando			
Denver at Memphis	Milwaukee at Detroit				Utah at N.J.			
Houston at New Orleans	Boston at Phoenix				Sacramento at Charlotte			
Washington at Cleveland	Atlanta at Golden State				Portland at Seattle			
Boston at Phoenix	Charlotte at Washington				Indiana at New Jersey			
Utah at N.J.	Philadelphia at Miami				New Orleans at San Antonio			
Atlanta at Golden State	L.A. Clippers at San Antonio				Atlanta at Utah			
Portland at Seattle	Friday's games				Sacramento at Orlando			
Charlotte at Washington	Detroit at Phoenix				Boston at Portland			
Indiana at New Jersey	Memphis at Cleveland				New York at Toronto			
Philadelphia at Miami	Chicago at Houston				Dallas at Houston			
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Houston at New Orleans	Boston at Phoenix				Sacramento at Charlotte			
Washington at Cleveland	Atlanta at Golden State				Portland at Seattle			
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Washington at Cleveland	Atlanta at Golden State				Portland at Seattle			
Boston at Phoenix	Charlotte at Washington				Indiana at New Jersey			
Utah at N.J.	Philadelphia at Miami				New Orleans at San Antonio			

# What if the NBA invited its sweetest 16?

BY BRIAN MAHONEY

The Associated Press

Ten teams in the Eastern Conference have losing records. Three of them will still wind up in the playoffs.

Obviously, most of them don't belong in the playoffs. And they wouldn't be if the format was altered so the field was truly reserved for the top 16 teams.

If that was the case this season, as many as 11 teams from the loaded Western Conference could get in.

"That'd be great if you're out West." San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan said. "I think the East would be a little (mad) about that, but it'd be great if you were out West."

Duncan called it an "arguable point," but he and other players who talked about it over All-Star weekend doubted it would ever happen. Neither did Stu Jackson, the NBA's executive vice president of operations.

Washington's Caron Butler didn't like the idea, and not just because his Wizards would be in



## Notes

danger of staying home under the changed format. Washington, sixth in the East, would be tied for the final spot with Sacramento, which is 11th out West.

"It'd ruin tradition," Butler said. "I feel like tradition is strong in this league. That's why I was a strong supporter of keeping the ball the same and everything, because tradition is everything."

"But if we did, that'd mean teams would have to win more games, because the West is like 50 wins probably won't get you in the playoffs."

Jackson said he thought the league would always want to preserve the idea of a conference championship, but as Boston's Ray Allen pointed out, travel would likely be the biggest obstacle. His top-seeded Celtics would have to go across the country to Sacramento if the Kings earned the final spot, and No. 2 seed Detroit would have to visit Portland.

Toronto, as a No. 13 seed, would end up in Los Angeles or Phoenix, which are tied for fourth. Still, a change could be appealing for a team such as Denver, which is no sure thing to make the playoffs in the West but would be safely in under the 16-team format.

"It could be a better system, but the Western Conference is real, real tough right now," the Nuggets' Carmelo Anthony said.

"It's like nine teams are fighting for one spot. That's how it feels in the Western Conference right now. In the East, it's a little bit more leeway over there."

**Playoff plans:** Dallas, Detroit and San Antonio all have made the playoffs six years running and seem certain to go back this season.

Only one other team has a similar streak, and the New Jersey Nets are intent on keeping up their end of the bargain. The Jason Kidd trade didn't change that.

"It's very, very important for our group to be in the playoffs," Nets coach Lawrence Frank said.

"We talk about it. A source of pride is one of four teams to play in the postseason six consecutive years and we do not want to let that down. So we have to do it by any way."

That won't be easy without Kidd, the player most responsible for the playoff streak Before he arrived in 2001, the Nets hadn't been in the playoffs since 1998. But he also was making it difficult for them this season, with it being obvious for at least two months that he wanted out.

"Publicly we had our captain wanted to be traded. That probably is more of a cloud than anything," Frank said the day after Kidd was introduced in Dallas. "There's closure to that, and so we just have to move forward. We've been in a holding pattern so long as a team."

Making matters worse, the Nets won't have Devin Harris, the key player in the trade on their end, for possibly two weeks because of a sprained ankle. But their first game after the trade showed they plan to keep fighting.

Vince Carter, who so many thought the Nets would also deal, scored 33 points in his best game of a disappointing season. Marcus Williams had a season-best 25 points and looked capable of running the team until Harris is ready, and the Nets made a number of hustle plays down the stretch to pull out a 110-102 overtime victory over Chicago.

"This is the only way we're going to win basketball games, by sticking together, playing hard, being tough-minded," Carter said.

"We're going to have our ups and downs and make mistakes, but we have to see it through."

**No place like home:** Detroit has the second-best record in the NBA, and it may not be good enough for homecourt advantage in the playoffs. San Antonio might not open any round at home.

And neither team seems that concerned.

"Do I want to get home court? I just want to be playing my best ball — personally, as a team," Pistons All-Star Chauncey Billups said. "I don't care where we play at. I feel like we could be good and we have a chance."

The Pistons could still catch Boston for the best record in the league, but probably don't care either way. Detroit was the No. 1 seed in the East the last two years and lost in the conference finals. The Pistons didn't even win the Central Division when they won the NBA title in 2004.

"Home court is something that — it's so crazy to say this — but it's something we've had the last few years and not been good with it," Billups said. "But our team is a team that really relies on challenges. We've seen so much together that when we're supposed to win these two quick games and it's over, those are the games we have the most difficult time in."

"I think we're a better road team because you have 20,000 rooting against you and that's what we hang our hat on, upsetting 20,000 people."

San Antonio's position is more uncertain in the tougher West. The defending champion could end as the top seed, or could fall to the lower half of the playoff picture and not even have homecourt advantage in the first round.

The Spurs have seen that playing in home offers no guarantees. Just two years ago, they had the best record in the West but lost Game 7 against Dallas in the second round in their own building.

"If one is given the choice, one would say, 'I'll take the first seed,'" Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "If you don't feel like that, you'd have to be an idiot. Nobody would turn that down."

"But we've won championships when we've had the best record, and we have not won championships when we've had the best record. So we know that it's a fact that it's not the most important thing."

"It's more important to be mentally and physically ready to go come playoff time and be playing the best basketball regardless of your seed."

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# Ramirez finally arrives on time for Sox camp

## Slugger says he wants to end career with team

The Associated Press

Manny Ramirez is in midseason form.

The big bopper with his own style — on and off the field — showed up at camp Thursday, marking the first time in three seasons he's beat Boston's deadline for reporting to spring training. Right on cue, he came out with a curious comment.

"I might be late two years in a row," Ramirez said with a straight face, "but I'm always on time."

Whatever, his latest Yogi-ism came in Fort Myers, Fla. Plus, there was this pronouncement: "I want to finish my career here."

MVP of the 2004 World Series, Ramirez helped the Red Sox win another championship last fall. The star left fielder is entering the final season of his eight-year, \$160 million contract that has team options for 2009 and 2010 at \$20 million each.

"I want to stay here, but it's up to them if they want to bring me," Ramirez said. "But if they don't want to bring me back, that's fine. I know I'll be a free agent after '08 so that's another thing that I'm looking forward to."

He added: "It's up to them to say, 'OK, we're going to take the option.' It's not up to me to go into the office and demand a four-year deal, whatever. No, I'm going to come here to play the game, finish my year. If they want me to come back, I'll come back."

General manager Theo Epstein also prefers to wait.

"We're focused on 2008," Epstein said. "Manny's contract provides for the first of his options to be decided upon at the end of the year and there's a time for that, but it's certainly after the season. And we're looking forward

### Spring training roundup

to Manny continuing to work hard and have a great year."

Manager Terry Francona isn't too worried about Ramirez losing his concentration over future contracts.

"Once he steps in the batter's box, that isn't an issue," Francona said. "Or if there's something that is an issue, when those two feet get planted in the batter's box, he's ready to go."

Ramirez is coming off one of his worst offensive seasons — a .296 batting average with 20 homers and 88 RBIs. He's 26th on the all-time list with 490 homers and should move into the Top 20 this year.

Ramirez wasn't moving much on Thursday. Francona merely laughed when asked about Ramirez skipping conditioning drills.

"I give Manny credit for being smart enough to sneak out of here," Francona said.

At Dunedin, Fla., Frank Thomas said he's not ready to call it a career — a switch from a year ago when retirement was on his mind.

"Not at all, not at all," he said. "I take care of myself and work hard. I still have my hand-eye coordination and can see a baseball great. Those are the things that make guys retire."

Thomas hit .277 with 26 home runs and 95 RBIs last season in the first year of a two-year deal with the Blue Jays. Toronto holds the option for 2009.

At Surprise, Ariz., Texas Rangers right fielder Milton Bradley practiced for the second day without limitations on his surgically repaired right knee.

"He's hitting, doing outfield drills and running," manager Ron Washington said. "There are no restrictions at all, but we are going to



BRITA MENG OUTZEN/AP

**Boston Red Sox left fielder Manny Ramirez arrives at the team's spring training facility in Fort Myers, Fla., on Thursday.**

keep an eye on him."

Bradley had off-season surgery after tearing up his knee on Sept. 23 when his manager, San Diego's Bud Black, spun him to the ground while trying to keep him from going after an umpire.

At Tucson, Ariz., the Chicago White Sox announced they will honor the victims of a shooting rampage at Northern Illinois University by wearing the school's baseball caps in their opening spring training game next week.

After facing the Colorado Rockies on Feb. 27, White Sox players will autograph the caps, which will be sent to the DeKalb, Ill., school and auctioned off to benefit a scholarship fund in memory of the five students who were killed.

At Peoria, Ariz., the San Diego Padres held their first full-squad workout of spring training, and top prospect Chase Headley is being given a chance to win the starting job in left field. He made five starts at third base for the Padres last year, but has never played left field in his pro career.

# Champ Car, IRL merger announced

BY MIKE HARRIS

The Associated Press

The long, bitter open-wheel split is over. After 12 years of rivalry which confused fans, promoted apathy and nearly buried the sport, the Champ Car World Series has accepted an agreement to cease operations, giving the surviving Indy Racing League the opportunity to rebuild open-wheel's lost prestige.

The unification deal, which has been in the works for about two weeks, was announced Friday in Indianapolis, where both series have their headquarters.

The unification deal, which has been in the works for about two weeks, was announced Friday in Indianapolis, where both series have their headquarters.

A statement was released, saying, "Owners of Champ Car and the Indy Racing League completed an agreement in principle Friday that will unify the sport for 2008."

"Gerald Forsythe, co-owner of Champ Car, signed an agreement in principle in Chicago, joining his partner Kevin Kalkhoven and Indy founder and CEO Tony George, who had signed late Thursday in Indianapolis."

Griffin said details would be revealed during a news conference next week.

Earlier Friday, it appeared the talks might be stalled when Kalkhoven left without comment. Numerous attempts over the year to merge the series have failed, mostly over the issue of who would retain control. This time, though, all the hurdles were cleared as George worked together with principal Champ Car co-owners Kalkhoven and Forsythe to reach an agreement.

The latest talks began after George offered any Champ Car team that moved to the IRL in 2008 free Honda engine lease programs, free Dallara chassis and the same \$1.2 million incentive program offered to its own teams.

At least six Champ Car teams, and up to 10 cars, were believed ready to make the move in time to race in the IRL's season opener March 29 at Homestead, Fla. That could give the IRL's IndyCar Series a field of up to 46 cars, a considerable improvement over the numbers of entries in either series in recent years.

The agreement is also expected to add to three Champ Car events to the IRL's original 16-race schedule for 2008. That could include the races at Long Beach, Calif., Surfers Paradise in Australia and Edmonton, Alberta.

The rest of the Champ Car schedule, which was to have begun April 20 in Long Beach, was canceled.

In the early 1990s, Championship Auto Racing Teams (CART), which later became Champ Car, had become a destination for drivers from Europe and South America and was a strong, thriving series constantly adding more road and street races to its schedule at the expense of traditional oval.

George announced in the fall of 1994 his intention to start the IRL as a way to give more young American drivers a chance to go to the Indianapolis 500 and to move open-wheel racing back toward its grassroots oval tracks. He started IRL competition in 1996. CART going its own way until it declared bankruptcy in January 2004.

# NFL considers changing playoff seeding

BY RACHEL COHEN

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The NFL is considering changing the postseason so seeding would be based on records rather than division titles.

That won't avoid instances like the one last season when Cleveland missed the playoffs and Tennessee made it by beating Indianapolis backups. But competition committee members agreed Thursday that changing the seeding guidelines would result in fewer such situations.

Committee co-chairman Rich McKay, the Atlanta Falcons' president, said some clubs had indicated support for the changes.

"There are definitely people on both sides," McKay said Thursday at the NFL scouting combine, "and I think there are good arguments on both sides."

The altered seeding wouldn't have affected the Colts-Titans game — Indianapolis had already clinched the second-best record in the AFC — but it could make an impact in other future situations in which one club would have nothing to play for under the current guidelines.

The main motivation for chang-

ing the rules is ensuring that the best teams are rewarded. With the NFL aligned in eight four-team divisions, the odds increase that a champion of a weak division may have home field advantage at a wild-card squad from a tough division with a better record.

That happened last season when NFC South champion Tampa Bay (9-7) played host to the New York Giants (10-6). The Giants, who despite having clinched a playoff spot, played all-out in their finale against unbeaten New England, beat the Buccaneers in Tampa and won two playoff games on the road.

Then they upset New England in the Super Bowl, crediting in part the 38-35 loss to the Patriots in the regular-season finale for giving them the confidence that they could stay a team seeking to finish a historic 19-0.

The committee is also seeking to revamp its proposal to allow one defensive player to wear a headset in his helmet to communicate with coaches as the quarterback does. NFL owners have previously voted down that idea. A similar rule was considered last season at the NFL meetings.

On offense, it's easy to ensure

that only one player at a time is wearing the headset on the field because it's always the quarterback. That's more complicated on defense.

"If your identified defensive starter is injured and you lose the ability to communicate with the defense, how do you handle the backup situation?" said Titans coach Jeff Fisher, the committee's other co-chair. "Those are the things we're currently discussing."

Fisher expected that teams would keep multiple helmets with headsets on the sideline.

"We're just going through the process of ensuring there's not any confusion," he said.

The committee does not plan to propose any rule changes to prevent coaches from calling a timeout just as the ball is snapped on a field goal attempt, as happened several times this past season.

Fisher predicted the trend won't continue because coaches have realized the move can backfire. His team was the beneficiary of that scenario Nov. 19, when the Denver Broncos called a timeout just before Rob Tronys missed a 56-yard field goal try at the end of the first half. Given a second chance, Broncos made it.

Fisher said prohibiting coaches from calling a timeout with less than 10 seconds left on the play clock isn't a viable solution.

"Well, what if I've got 12 guys on the field and I just recognized it, and now I can't call a timeout, so I've been assessed a 5-yard penalty, and now they've got a first down, and a touchdown wins?" he said.

The committee was also briefed by the commissioner's office on the handling of the Patriots spying scandal. Members did not see the need to change any rules, believing the current ones are sufficient to prevent future incidents.

"The briefing was thorough; it was detailed," Colts president Bill Polian said. "The process of arriving at the discipline was explained to us. That process was fair, detailed, efficient. What was on the tapes was explained to us and what was in the notes was explained to us. The reason that that information was done away with was explained."

"From my perspective, that was a thorough, fair, efficient process with lots of integrity, and they arrived at a disciplinary action, which the commissioner thought was appropriate and met with previous precedent."

# Bonds: Prosecutors' typos could weaken perjury case

The Associated Press

**SAN FRANCISCO** — Barry Bonds seized on a pair of typos, complaining in court papers Thursday that the government's mistakes could compromise his chances for a fair trial.

The typographical errors showed up in a recent filing by prosecutors wrongly accusing Bonds of flunking a drug test in 2001.

They later admitted they instead meant 2000.

Baseball's home run king has pleaded not guilty to perjury and obstruction of justice charges, but alleging he lied when he told a federal grand jury he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs. He is asking a judge to dismiss the case, arguing the questions posed to him while under oath were ambiguous and confusing.

In a filing last week opposing Bonds' motion for dismissal, prosecutors twice referred to a drug test he failed in November 2001. They later said they meant to refer to a November 2000 drug test that had previously been mentioned in the indictment.

Still, some media outlets reported that the government had produced new evidence proving Bonds had lied.

The mistakes were corrected Thursday, but Bonds' lawyers argue in their response to the government's filing that the damage to the case was already done.

"As is always the case, many more prospective jurors will have read the original story than the retroactively corrected one," Rordan and Donald Horgan, two of Bonds' six attorneys.

Bonds' attorneys also signaled in Thursday's filing that they intend to attack the credibility of the November 2000 test results, which were seized in 2003 when the government raided the now-defunct Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, or BALCO, headquarters of a drug ring that peddled steroids to numerous elite athletes.

That drug test was mentioned in the indictment unsealed in November, with prosecutors saying it was for a player they called "Barry B."

BALCO founder Victor Conte has said the test was done "quick and easy," and that he's not a player who handled Bonds' blood and urine samples during the three years between the testing and the federal raid.

Legal experts had said they expected Bonds' attorneys to question the forensic value of the test. The Bonds vendors also argued that the government possesses any credible or admissible evidence that he had a positive test for steroid use in either November 2000 or November 2001," Bonds' lawyers wrote.

Bonds' attorneys also hinted that transcripts of Bonds' grand jury testimony that doesn't appear in the government's indictment will bolster the slugger's defense that he didn't lie. The attorneys didn't offer any more details.

The U.S. Attorney's office declined comment Thursday. On Feb. 15, spokesman Josh Eaton said the typo was inadvertent.

## Sports briefs

### NCAA overturns ruling that stripped OU football of 8 wins

**OKLAHOMA CITY** — Oklahoma will have wins reinstated from the 2005 Holiday Bowl season after an NCAA appeals committee partially overturned a ruling in the infractions case involving former quarterback Rhett Bomar.

The NCAA Infractions Appeals Committee released a ruling Friday that Oklahoma should not have been found guilty of separate violations for failing to detect that football players were working at a Norman car dealership and failing to monitor those students' employment.

In overturning the violation related to detecting the players' employment, the appeals committee reinstated the Sooners' wins from their 8-4 season in 2005.

"This decision is a great thing for those individuals involved with our 2005 team," Sooners coach Bob Stoops said in a statement.

"Most of the players on our current roster were not on that team, but I know those victories mean a lot to the players and coaches who were here at that time."

### Fulmer responds to criticism about discipline in column

**KNOXVILLE, Tenn.** — Tennessee football coach Phillip Fulmer lashed out at criticism about player discipline decisions in a newspaper column.

In the column published on The Knoxville News Sentinel's Web site Thursday night, Fulmer said he has never used a player's skill or athletic success in deciding how he should be disciplined for an off-the-field problem.

"Our internal discipline is based on one factor alone: the course that is most likely to help that individual young man make amends and get his life straight," Fulmer wrote in the column that will appear in Friday's edition.

"I've undoubtedly made some mistakes, but I try to do what I think is in the best interest for each young man."

The 15-year coach specifically responded to an opinion piece by News Sentinel columnist John Adams published earlier in the week calling for Fulmer to be fired because of a series of off-the-field discipline problems.

In less than two months, eight players have been arrested or disciplined for breaking team rules.

### Angels beat Rodriguez in salary arbitration

**TEMPE, Ariz.** — The Los Angeles Angels defeated Francisco Rodriguez in salary arbitration Friday, and the closer will receive \$10 million rather than his request for \$12.5 million.

Despite the loss, Rodriguez tied the record for the highest salary in an arbitration decision, a mark he shares with Alfonso Soriano, who lost his case against Washington in 2006, and Ryan Howard. Howard beat Philadelphia on Thursday.

The decision on Rodriguez was made by arbitrators Steven Goldberg, Elizabeth Neumeier



THE CANADIAN PRESS, FRANK GUNN/AP

**Lindsey Vonn soars down the mountain on her way to placing second in the women's FIS World Cup downhill race on Friday.**

and Steven Wolf, who heard arguments Thursday in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Rodriguez made \$7.1 million last year, when he tied for second in the AL with 40 saves. He is eligible for free agency after this season.

Owners won six of eight cases that went to hearings this year.

### Johnson, Gordon on front row after qualifying rained out

**FONTANA, Calif.** — Qualifying for the NASCAR Sprint Cup race at Auto Club Speedway was rained out Friday, with the 43-car field determined by the rulebook instead of laps on the 2-mile oval.

NASCAR uses car owner points from the past season for the first five races of each year, so two-time reigning Cup champion Jimmie Johnson and Hendrick Motorsports teammate Jeff Gordon, who finished second in 2007, will start from the front in Sunday's Auto Club 500 at the track, formerly known as California Speedway.

Rain came and went throughout the day, with the cars never getting onto the track. Officials finally gave up after several weepers — water bubbling up from the ground and running across the track — delayed the start of practice until it began to rain again midway through the afternoon.

"There's more pressure on the crew chiefs than on the drivers at this point," said Johnson, who started the season with a disappointing 27th-place finish Sunday in the Daytona 500. "A lot of guys came out here with different setups than in testing and that makes it a lot tougher for the guys who work on the cars."

Jim Bowyer, who will start third, said, "That's pretty good for me. I'll go to third gladly. A good starting position goes a long way at these tracks."

Matt Kenseth, winner of the last two February races here, will start fourth, followed by Casey Mears, Tony Stewart, Sam Hornish Jr. — using Penske Racing teammate Kurt Busch's 2007

points — Jeff Burton, Carl Edwards and Kevin Harvick.

### Perez beats Mets in arbitration, will make \$6.5M

**PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla.** — Pitcher Oliver Perez won his salary arbitration case against the New York Mets on Friday and will be paid \$6.5 million this year rather than the team's offer of \$4.725 million.

The left-hander went 15-10 with a 3.56 ERA last year, when he made \$2,425,000. The decision was made by arbitrators Steven Wolf, Robert Bailey and Elizabeth Neumeier, who heard the case Thursday in St. Petersburg.

### Officials approve plan for Marlins' new stadium

**MIAMI** — The Florida Marlins finally have an agreement for the baseball-only ballpark they have coveted for nearly a decade. Still, the long fight for a new home isn't quite over.

After lengthy and often-contentious debate, Miami-Dade County commissioners — some grudgingly at first — voted Thursday night to approve a basic plan for a \$515 million, retractable-roof stadium that would open in time for the 2011 season.

The first vote passed the county commission 9-3. About 25 minutes later, after amending some language, the county motioned to re-vote and approved the Baseball Stadium Agreement unanimously.

City commissioners approved the ISA by a 4-1 vote several hours earlier.

"One of the longest-running hopes for a baseball stadium in the history of the game has finally ended, successfully," Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria said. "And I'm very happy to hear it was an unanimous vote at the end."

The team would be renamed the Miami Marlins before the facility — which includes the roof the team insisted upon, because the threat of rain is a summer-time constant in South Florida — opens its gates.

The 37,000-seat stadium will be

at the site of the Orange Bowl in Miami's Little Havana, a neighborhood long targeted for economic revitalization. The Orange Bowl — the former home of Miami Hurricanes football — was already scheduled for demolition and, although it wasn't the originally preferred site by MLB officials or the Marlins, proved to be one all involved parties could eventually agree upon.

### American Vonn clinches World Cup downhill title

**WHISTLER, British Columbia** — Lindsey Vonn of the United States clinched the World Cup downhill title with a second-place finish on Friday.

Nadia Steyer of Switzerland won the race in 1 minute, 45.30 seconds. Vonn made a mistake near the bottom of the course and finished 0.01 behind Steyer.

American Julia Mancuso finished third in 1:45.49 on the same track that will be used for the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Britt Janyk of Canada was fourth in front of a hometown crowd.

### Falcons to pick third in draft, followed by Raiders, Chiefs

**INDIANAPOLIS** — The Atlanta Falcons won a coin toss for draft position on Friday, meaning they will pick third in the April 26 draft with Oakland fourth and Kansas City fifth.

All three teams finished at 4-12 and the owners met with an identical record, the first tiebreaker.

There will be 31 picks in the first round, with New England losing its choice, taken away as part of the penalty for its illegal taping of opponents' signals.

### Builer Ross buys half of Dolphins from Huizenga

**MIAMI** — New York builder Stephen Ross agreed to buy half the Miami Dolphins from owner Wayne Huizenga, with an opportunity to become managing general partner.

Ross would acquire 50 percent of the franchise, Dolphin Stadium and surrounding developable land, the team said Friday. The NFL must approve the sale.

Huizenga would remain managing general partner for now. Ross is chairman of Related Companies, an international real estate development company.

"I have always said that I wanted to bring in a partner, and I can't think of anyone more appropriate than Steve," Huizenga said in a statement. "He has unrivaled enthusiasm and I couldn't feel better about the future than I do with Steve as my partner and Bill Parcels running football operations."

Ross and Huizenga were to hold a news conference later in the day.

Ross has been involved with sports before — a minority partner with the NHL's New York Islanders. In 1990, he was part of a group interested in bringing baseball to the city.

"Having grown up in South Florida, Dolphins football has been a lifetime passion for me," Ross said. "I am energized by this opportunity and look forward to being a part of it once again with the Dolphins win a Super Bowl alongside all the other loyal Dolphin fans."

## SPORTS



Still no word on Sampson as Indiana mulls violations; some players skip practice, Page 41

Far East basketball tournaments

# Cobras' run cut short

## E.J. King boys fall to YIS-Seoul in Class A final

Stars and Stripes

Since they were in the eighth grade, Blake Romero, Dominique Johnson, Fernando Rico, Keith Williams and Marquis Singletary had worked together toward a goal: winning a Far East High School Boys Class A Basketball Tournament title as seniors for the E.J. King Cobras.

That dream fell one victory short Friday as Yongsan International-Seoul's Daniel Han burned the Cobras for 23 points — 13 in the second quarter — in a 66-46 championship-game triumph.

The Guardians won their first DODDS-Pacific tournament title in any team sport — and left the Cobras' Fab Five to pick up the pieces of the shattered dream.

"We really felt like we had it this year," said Johnson, whose Cobras had to climb out of the loser's bracket of the double-elimination tournament and needed to beat YIS-Seoul twice to take the title.

E.J. King eliminated St. Paul Christian of Guam 60-52 in its first game Friday, then ousted three-time defending champion Faith Academy 79-61 by pressing and using its high-speed transition game.

"We had a good run," coach Daren Schuettelz said.

Against the Guardians, the Cobras' legs began to tire, the shots fell short and Han caught fire as YIS-Seoul outscored the Cobras 20-8 in the second quarter and didn't fall behind again.

"We felt like nothing was going for us," Johnson said.

"When we needed the shots, they weren't dropping," Schuettelz said. "YIS used our weaknesses against us and played well."

The Cobras tried to answer the call after halftime, mustering up more pressure and cutting the deficit to 47-39 late in the third quarter.

But foul trouble — Rico, Johnson, Williams and Singletary each finished with four — hamstrung the Cobras. Meanwhile, Ryan Park (20 points) and Dong Young Kim (17) kept hitting, along with Han, keeping the Cobras at bay.

"E.J. King was exhausted. They gave a great effort. We had the fresher legs and that was the difference," Guardians coach Steve Epps said.



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

E.J. King's Ryan Bailey slices between Faith Academy defenders during a knockout-round game Friday in the Boys Class A basketball tournament at Kelly Field House, Camp Walker, South Korea. The Cobras ousted three-time defending champion Faith 79-61 before falling 66-46 to Yongsan International-Seoul in the final.

### Seoul American, Kadena to meet in both Class AA finals

Saturday's Class AA tournament championship games became an all-Seoul American vs. Kadena affair as the two powerhouse schools came away with semifinal victories.

Seoul American's boys survived another scare against a Kanto Plain Association of Secondary Schools team, edging St. Mary's 45-42 a day after outlasting Yokota 47-44 in overtime.

"They were poised and ready," Falcons coach Steve Boyd said of a Titans team that rallied from an early 15-point deficit behind effective passing and 13-for-15 foul shooting. "That kept them in the game."

Kadena had no such trouble, pounding American School in Japan 55-39. Coach Robert Bliss credited Kadena's playing in four in-season tournaments with toughening up his Panthers, who shoot for their 10th Class AA title on Saturday, while Seoul American goes for its fourth.

"We've been in pressure situations all season," he said. "It's been a great season. A great group of kids."

On Okinawa, defending champion Kadena pounded John F. Kennedy of Guam 50-25, while Seoul American rolled past Christian Academy in Japan 61-53. The Panthers and Falcons faced each other in a championship for the second time in three years on Saturday.

"It's harder to repeat than to win it the first time," said Ken Hudson, who'll chase his third Class AA title as Panthers coach. "We have one more hurdle to climb."

"It's been quite a journey since we got here," said coach Charlotte Hicks of the Falcons, aiming to go out with her third Class AA title in the last of her 22 seasons as coach. "The kids will be ready tomorrow."

### Faith girls repeat as Class A champions

At Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in Japan, Faith Academy captured its second straight Girls Class A title and its eighth DODDS-Pacific title since 1996.

For the second straight season, the Vanguards handed International School of the Sacred Heart its only losses of the season, including Friday's 37-17 triumph over the Symbas.

Coach Dan Beaver used Mary Shaw and Tashia Hardeman to defend against two-time MVP Leyna Arbour, and held the Symbas to a season-low point total. "Putting them on Leyna was the key," Beaver said.

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Cavs get Wallace, Szczerbak to help LeBron Page 44

